

30 July 1966

Dear Mr. Sauvage,

It was only in the process of reading the page proofs of your English edition during the past few days that I realized how rudimentary my command of French is—for even with the help of the dictionary, I now realize, I grasped very little indeed of "L'Affaire Oswald" more than a year ago. You must have thought me stupid many times not to understand an allusion to its contents; but for all practical purposes I might just as well not have read the French edition at all.

Therefore, I found myself reading the English proofs with complete absorption, reluctant to put it down when there was an interruption, feeling the same suspense and pleasure as one feels in reading an eagerly-awaited work for the first time. If I had to select one quality that most impresses me in your book, I think I would say it is the uncompromising judgments made—whether of the lowly Dallas cop or the exalted Chief Justice. What a relief after reading, over these last months, the "respectable" debate in all its timidity and reticence!

That is not to say that you have not done an excellent and often a superb dissection of the "evidence" against the accused, with impeccable logic and exquisite irony—but, above all, with that indignation which the self-respecting person must feel about the monumental injustice, indignity, and insult done to every human being when the whole power of the Governmental apparatus is brought to bear, first against an innocent and helpless individual, and then against those who dared to raise their voices against the travesty, and then against the very intelligence of people, tossed the bone of a crudely spurious "solution" to horrendous crimes.

Your book makes a devastating and indelible attack on the apparatus and its creatures, for which every person who retains respect for decency must be gratified.

When I come to your remarks about me, I find myself embarrassed for words with which to thank you adequately for what is a most lavish and truly generous tribute. It means a great deal to me, not only for what it says but because it is said by a person of uncompromising personal dignity and candor. I am very grateful.

Sincerely yours,