

Dear Sylvia,

April 14, 1976

My mind is in chaos.

Yesterday I received a letter (4/10) from Lifton "pointing out" & am not "properly concerned, enough, with the small forward motion between frame 312 and 313," which "must be explained" if "this issue came up in an American courtroom ...," and expressing the view "I think you are too hard on Hoch for his initial liaison(?) back in the late 60's, with Alvarez." His letter was accompanied by xeroxed copies of a "Memorandum to: Paul Hoch, Peter Scott, Russ Stotler" (2/22/75) "Re: Inadequacies which I believe exist in the anthology, as it is presently structured," and a letter (2/23/75) to Paul Hoch. The latter bears a message in red at the top of page one: "Tom - Do Not xerox. Thanks. David." The letter asks me not to "xerox or distribute these attachments. I just wanted you to see the type of dialogue I have had with Paul..." This is followed by thanks for "informing" him of the Clark Perry transcript. If I can overcome the nausea which this effluvia engendered I'll write suggesting he detach the respirator which permits his brain to rattle.

The Lefton demerche interrupted the outline I was preparing for my forthcoming talk on the assassination to the Marxist Education Collective, and which I took, half finished, for submission last evening, in connection with attendance at an exposition of the program of a Trotskyist group, Spartacist League. The outline was enthusiastically received and a May or June date will be set for the talk. The rest of the evening was disastrous; the Spartacist representative droned for an hour and a half, and evinced total incomprehension of Marx's, Lenin's, Trotsky's, Mao's, and Castro's ideas, contributions, and achievements. He had nothing to say about prospects for the American revolution. The following discussion was arid. I spent a sleepless night, mentally reworking my outline to reshape the talk I had intended to give to attempt to cope with some of the misconceptions of revolutionary strategy I had heard.

This morning your letter arrived, containing a page taken, apparently from Com. Document 5. As no note or letter accompanied it I am

confused by the notation at the top lefthand side, reading:

1

DL 89-43

DW: cah/zg/mac

What does it mean?

The handwritten "400" at the bottom center I take to be a page number. In the Inventory of the Records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, Record Group 27 (which I urge you again to request from the N.H. Archives, for which there is no charge), the Commission Documents are listed numerically with "Part or pages" and Commission Exhibit No's in parallel vertical columns. I looked for page 400. I found:

| | Comm. Doc. No. | Part or pages | Exhibit No. |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| last letter for 5 | 5 | 396 | 1326 |
| | 5 | 410 | 2024 |
| notice span → | (6 | 250-298 | 1401) |
| notice reprimand span | (6 | 282-284 | 1284) |

So page 400 is not listed. Next are pp. 397-409.

Other missing pages incl. D's^{no} are 1-19; 26-27; 30-35; 38-43;

45; 49-50; 52; 58-59; 63-67; 70; 73-91; 96-98; 103;

110-112; 116-122; 124-138; 135-138; 142; 145-175; 178-211; 214-219;

221-339; 341-342; 344-355; 357-363; 366-380; 389-394; above

If we take 410 as a tentative total # of pages of CDs, we find 76 listed and 334 missing. What's in 'em? What a research to get and study them? Who will do it?

Is it necessary? Who can tell?

I thought it all a waste of vanishing time and began to flip pages in the Inventory when suddenly my eye caught a mark I had made in the column on page 13 in the paragraph under "52. Related Material Received From the Secret Service, 1963 and 1965..." What I had marked was "(1) Electrostatic copies of the following papers relating to the assassination and the autopsy of President Kennedy: (a) Certificate of Death filed in Texas; ... (c) receipt from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a missile recovered during the examination of the body... (2) the original and six pink copies of Certificate of Death (NAVMED N), consisting of the rubber copy, five carbon copies, and a pencil draft of the Navy Certificate of Death, all on the pink "NAVMED N" form ..."

After the year dates "1963 and 1965" above, in the heading, ~~is~~ on a separate line, is the single word "Negligible." !!!

5

Tell Roger, please. I'm exhausted and have a headache.

Thomas