

KPR

11/15/71

Dear Mary,

Your letter of the 12 makes me wish you were septuplets! But first of all, do not cash in your Christmas saving. It will not be necessary now and if it turns out otherwise later, there will always be time. Dad said he'd finance this trip and it is his idea that I go to Dallas among other things to see Arch. The only problem, the typical one that has dogged me with almost all "critics" in the past, is that he hasn't come up with the money. He gave me \$300, having estimated the total cost at \$300, said he'd send me a check for the balance, and hasn't. However, my travel agent is an old friend, so he will trust me for the ticket, which I have already, and I'll have this \$300 for the trip. Wil will be church-sounding, but she also, alas, is houselocked, so that presents no immediate new crisis. I can also in effect write checks by using my charge card. In any event, don't cash in your chips. But the offer is magnificent, and we love you the more for it.

My plans are still somewhat uncertain as to date, and Wil has had some such advice to offer. She says that while I am away to do all I can, stay as long as I can, and I think she is right. I begin in Knoxville and Petros tomorrow. Jerry is to meet me at the airport and I'll be staying with him until I leave, stopping off in Memphis perhaps overnight, perhaps for just the next plane, perhaps not even getting out of the plane. I won't know until I get from Knoxville. Thence to N.O., where what I can do is not within my present knowledge. The things I had planned are few and in narrow areas. My letter to Ivan (cc to JG) remains unanswered, so I haven't even an idea of a fairly secure cheap motel without the kind of camaraderie I'd prefer to avoid, or where to look for the least decently rented car. My old friends are no longer in N.O. and I can expect nothing but animosity from JJ at all until they next need me. Should you want to reach me, it is Jerry's idea that we stay at the Holiday Inn in Harrison, which I take it is closer to Petros than to Knoxville. The room may be in his name. He has some p.r. lined up, radio, TV, newspaper. He should have been my publisher! Even a man with the record of a petty crook can do it and a publisher can't, need one say more of the publisher? When I get settled at N.O., if you have no objection, I'll phone you and reverse the charges twice: once when I'm located and once when I know the plane I'm taking to Dallas. I do hope you can meet it, and I welcome what I'd assume, your hospitality. You great generosity in offering the car, however, is something I do appreciate, as will Dad, who had agreed to the cost of a rental car in N.O. and there. Moreover, aside from Arch, the first thing I'd like to do is go over my plans for working there with you and probably Jack, who I'm looking forward to meeting. I think his good head will be helpful, and my regret is that I'll not be able to consult it before getting to N.O. On the bus, though, I think it likely that we can drive to your office and then I can take the car. But it will be great!

Now I am bringing a single copy of the new last part of PM with me, for you alone. You can copy it at work, I believe. If Arch is up to it, I think that his political prejudices can be overcome by reading the two earlier parts of PM. Even Sam couldn't find fault, I think, with what it says. They do not realize that I am not the captive on any political party and least of all of the eastern intellectual phony-liberal firms. In any event, don't try and sell him. Let him make up his own mind. I think he'll want to do some things. Dad, for example, wanted to fly right down and tray and talk him into paying for the printing of PM. I discouraged it and my going there is the alternative. I have really saved this all into an entirely new ear, and I think Arch will understand it. But I think in fairness to him and in consideration of the realities, it should be something discussed with him to the degree you consider desirable and the rest left to him.

Anyway, you figure on getting full benefit of grandmotherhood, including in Germany. One thing you might be able to locate for me in Dallas is a special cassette tape. I have been given an excellent Sony R240 with a built-in alarm that requires a tape to set it off. I think it is called a censor tape. I'll want Souys, 120s, for whatever interviews I'll conduct in Dallas where I can tape. I'll be trying in Tenn and N.O. but they are not

available here. I've tried all except one place, and that I'll try when I mail this in the p.m. so it will go out a day faster.

Bill's idea imposes an additional burden on you. She says do what I can when I'm away, make the most of the time and the fare. Unless there is some reason for returning to W.D., I'll use that time in Dallas. You-all think of those I might try and see who you have not and what might be expected of them. I have a few plans I'll discuss with you when I'm there. In the past, nobody declined to see me, in W.D. or in Dallas. I mean no single person, and almost all had no reluctance to being taped. Now I was supposed to have gone to a Wisconsin college to make a speech next week but now I can't. I've suggested that they have me the week of 12/5. If that works out, I'll want to stay in Dallas until then and then return via Wisconsin, which will save such time and costs and give me more than a week there.

Also, this may mean I am inviting myself for Thanksgiving.

Among other things, I'm looking forward to a reunion.

If you can meet me at the airport and save the cab fare, please, when - please, remember to give me the times you can without taking time off from work. The last time I went I took a supper flight from W.D. That may be best, but I'll have to see how the work goes, when I'm free, etc. I'll want to get out of there as fast as possible, as you'll better understand when we talk.

Again thanks,

November 12, 1971

Dear Harold:

Your letters were at the house when I got home from work yesterday afternoon. I immediately called Arch and told him you are coming. He is so strange! You do have him analyzed completely correctly. I think he thinks I have put something over on him. He wanted to dictate the terms. He seems to think it is a bad time and we should wait until after the first of the year. I told him we simply had to furnish your plane fare and your expenses while you are here. He didn't even answer me so I told him I would manage it somehow. Needless to say, I am thrilled that you are coming.

This morning, the minute I got to the office, I went to the head of personnel and asked if I could borrow from my Christmas Bonus. It has been \$250.00 the last two years. I asked for \$175.00, which is the round-trip fare from D.C. to Dallas. He told me I can. You are welcome to stay with us. We live like a bunch of gypsies but you would have a private bedroom. And, I can ride the bus and you may use my car while you are here. I don't cook but I'll see that you are fed.

I had planned to use my Christmas Bonus and leave for Germany to visit Jimmy Lee and our new grandbaby that will be born there this month, on December 24th or 25th... But, I sincerely feel that your trip to Dallas is much more important than my going to Germany. After all, they will be bringing the baby home to Dallas next summer.

On April 30th next year I should get another settlement check from my mother's estate which should straighten out my finances for another year.

I do love Arch so much and know that he is quite ill so I don't do or say anything knowingly that will upset him. I really feel that once he meets you he will have the same admiration and respect for you that I do. He already has the very highest regard for your work. I think that subconsciously he let some of the irresponsible criticisms that have been levelled against you have an effect on him. I think he is apprehensive, that is all. Perhaps after he meets you, he will be willing to take care of your expenses. But, if he doesn't, please don't say anything to him about it. Also, don't let Buck know what the situation is or that I am having to do it. I know you and Buck are going to like each other. He is just a big, ugly, down-to-earth Irishman--but has a heart of gold.

I just feel that I must not miss any opportunity to get you and Arch together. Next to your work, I think Arch has done the most constructive work that has been done on the assassination. Harold, you know me well enough to know that for the past eight years my whole life has been dedicated to uncovering the truth about what happened on Nov. 22, 1963. Thank God, I have not been required to make the sacrifices you have had to make but I have certainly been

willing to make those I have had to make. Compared to what you have done, I am ashamed to say that I have made any sacrifice.

Give my love to Lil... Of course, I wish she were coming with you, but I can't have everything!

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Much love,

Mary