

12/30/66

Dear Sylvia,

Your kind note of the 26th reminds me of several things I'm stopping to note for I find as I grow more weary I forget more. When the happy day comes and your book is out, we must get together so I can tell you what radio and TV shows are interested and effective. I have a hunch the papers will be more receptive by that time, too. Bobbs-Merrill may do much of it. (So far Dell has done nothing; I've had to do what promoting the book has gotten. It seems to be going well. I hope so for selfish and unselfish reasons, for if it does well, other publishers will be encouraged. We are indebted to Lane and Holt for their efforts, for the sales of the other books has not been as good as suspected. I also find Lane's tacking up in many places. Just this a.m. the Frederick bookstore, after its reorder was not filled by Holt and it got a supply from a wholesaler, showed me the vast quantity he has, Holt having filled his single order, belatedly, three times!

Also, there other to be things in WW III you may want to include. Please, when I tell you these things, keep them to yourself and for your own use, for my staff has a way of being adopted by those who do not understand it and do not use it. When that good day comes when we all have time, I'll have some stories to tell you about this. For one thing, the Baltimore agents did file a communication before the 27th and on the autopsy. It was dated the 23rd, the very earliest possible time. Note also that their known report mentions head surgery in Dallas and the knowledge that a tracheotomy had been performed as soon as the corpse was unwrapped.

I have the size of the fragment in Connolly's thigh if you want it.

Pictures were taken of the assassination from the fourth floor of the TSBD by an employee never called as a witness.

Oswald seems to have been seen by an employee also never called on the first floor about 15 minutes before the assassination.

Description of what Betzner's three films show.

Hoping to get proof Moorman film was used and then returned, reason given: it is redundant! Also, it was cropped when used. Shown to witnesses.

Benkin wrote Carr or mayor asking that "Sealey Plaza be undisturbed west of Houston St. and South of Elm". (Both of these Lifton has seen; Liebelar has them.)

I'll probably remember more, but I'm hurrying to catch our single outgoing mail of the day.

Enclosed is my only spare copy of a letter to Bahner that I think is self-explanatory and will show you what I'm attempting and what I'm working on. There is no rush on its return, but when you have finished with it and are writing me anyway, please send it back. Again, keep these things to yourself, please; I want them to succeed and have meaning.

The Baltimore Sun (12/22) did carry the story in which LIFE said it accidentally damaged the Zap original. It is inconsistent in detail with what LIFE told Schiller. Capitol's record will be out 1/9, Bill will have copies 1/7 and Schiller (who still says Oswald was an or the assassin) claims to have something new and sensational. He is very security-minded on the whole project. LIFE is to print the missing frames soon.

Hal and Ray think Exhibit 749 shows alteration, esp left hand and arm. I'm asking for a print, for it looks as though they are right to me.

When Drain flew to DC on the 23rd, the only item of Oswald's clothing he took with him was the shirt! He also took what he called brown wrapping paper, not a bag, plus a sample from the TSB roll. I think both may have significance.

Glad you sent the extra copy to Marguerite Oswald. She is lost and ^{is} suspect in need. I sent her WHITEWASH, inscribed in a way I think she likes. She is attracting a considerable following among the ladies of the radical right from whom ^{she} hear.

In my handling of the Altgens picture, recall I base all on and credit it to Liebel's positioning of Altgens, and Liebel may be wrong.

Berlin is coming here 1/3. I'm to meet him in DC. He professed not to know of you when I said he should speak to you and it is I who told him where you live and how to reach you. I do not know why he said Kupferman did, unless he was ~~my~~ coy with me. His major interest is in the researchers.

Harris was to have called me last night. ^{He} didn't. I'd like to be able to get up to New York soon. I know I said I would sometime in January to Miss Ketay, on the Barry Gray show. I do not now know when, meaning both: the date I made with her and when I will. Our finances are getting better. I think we have now paid the printer for all of WHITEWASH and owe him only for the sequel. But we still have no cash of our own, so I'm hesitant of travelling without urgent. The San Francisco people who were to have paid my travel expenses haven't. Perhaps they cannot.

In writing Penn and Ray I told them your good news, yesterday.

Hope I'm not forgetting anything. If you think there is anything new I might know that you want, ask me. Again, congratulations, and I hope you and BM can get it done and out fast, very fast. Thereafter, I may be able to help you a little with Europe. I've offered to do this with Penn and am at a loss to understand why he has not responded.

Sincerely,

Dec. 26, 1966

Dear Harold,

Congratulations on your second book! And thank you for the copy you sent me. I had already purchased one, so I sent it to Marguerite Oswald, who complains so bitterly of financial stringency.

I haven't been able to read WWII carefully yet because of the workload of the General Assembly (I even had to bring work home to do during the 4 days off for Xmas). I know that Jones Harris was most enthusiastic about it, and he is not readily moved to enthusiasm! I gather that he phoned you to express his admiration. I'd love to hear about your trip to the West Coast but I'm sure you are busier than ever, as I am too.

Again, Congratulations to you and to your wife, who must have contributed greatly to your second opus, and all good wishes.

Sylvia