

No public use

11/28/68

Dear Sylvia,

Many thanks for the copies of Striso's letters. I plan and planned no public use of it at all. However, because of a possibility I am not at liberty to discuss, I had planned to discuss this with Vince. If you have objection, please let preferably both of us know immediately, for I am seeing him Wednesday before either of us would have gotten that day's mail. We are meeting in Baltimore. If you send a carbon to the second of us, if you have objection to my showing these letters to Vince when I show him my own file, one of us should certainly know in time. His letters to you are not inconsistent with those he wrote me. I had deep misgivings about him then. Now they are deeper. He broke off contact with me when I bought nothing he said and brought it to a head by telling him how to meet me.

Memory can be frail, especially after a month-long trip that was very intensive, varied, I think productive, and I assure you exhausting. So I acknowledge my recollection can be faulty. Unless it is, Lifton told me you had sent him copies of my letters. My own opinion of what he is into makes him capable of such a falsehood. However, there is no doubt in my mind at all that he was aware of the correspondence. If my recollection is faulty, I owe you both an apology. I would not have spoken to him had others I trust, like Saul Hoch, not asked me to. I am glad to do. He has to be insane to believe and repeat the things he does, and he cannot be innocent to be associated with what he is. Just as I was about to leave yesterday I got a phone call from a Tampa reporter whose name I understood to be Raun. He had called me just after deadline to ask confirmation of what Thornley's lawyer had just told him. Naturally, it was wrong, distorted and in part incomplete - and too late to keep it from hurtful publication. Whether they print the truth I can only wonder, but the best it will amount to is the claim I am no longer beating my wife. It was carefully arranged that they could not know the truth in time to have it in the initial story. I can only anticipate another vilification from these angels of purity.

It is now more than a month since I spoke to Lifton. He freely acknowledged he had nothing to go on but Thornley's word and that he accepts it because he regards Thornley as an honest man. I gave him a number of checkpoints, where he could learn for himself whether this is the fact. He also promised to send me certain things. He has been silent. Lifton agrees the Open City picture of Kerry is the way Kerry says he looked the time of the assassination. Why not do what I asked him to do, check that picture with the one we know is of that period, Thornley Exhibit 1, the news picture taken the night he was first interviewed, from the papers.

It is unfortunate no one ever wondered, suppose Thornley is not an honest man, suppose, since what we have comes from him alone, he is not telling the truth or all the truth? The reporter says they used the phrase "practitioner of witchcraft" describing Barbara Reid to him. This is consistent. I asked for the evidence. He acknowledges none at all. I can tell you this: there was a "voodoo altar" in Barbara's home, the Kerry's knowledge. He helped her build it - for TV! I know she has written a book on voodoo, but nothing else, and there is certainly no evidence she is any kind of a witch. I do not know what Garrison has or knows, but I tell you this: before Kerry's grand-jury appearance, she was not the only person who told me of seeing him and Oswald together. They may all be wrong, but she is not alone, and that cannot be all of Garrison's interest.

However, I am sorry I took Dave's word. I should have known better.

Sincerely,

No public use

11/25/68

Harold —

As you requested, I am sending you herewith copies of letters & specimens from Striso. These are solely for your private information and I would request you not to make any public use of this material without my prior agreement. I hope that you accept and concur in this and I rely on you to respect my wishes as to the confidentiality of the enclosed letters.

Incidentally, my firm recollection is that I did not send copies of your letters to Lipton, and this is corroborated in my files of correspondence with him. I mentioned having received the letters but said explicitly that I could not send him a copy as I did not have access to the xerox at the time.

Hastily,

Spencer L. Cunningham

540 Tuckahoe Road  
Yonkers, N. Y.  
December 3, 1966

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher  
Scarecrow Press Inc.  
Box 656  
Metuchen, N. J.

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

Enclosed you will find my check for \$ 4.00 which I hope will cover the cost of obtaining your Warren Commission Index.

Strange as it may seem I cannot recall where I first heard of your Index. It may have been suggested by Rep. Theodore Kupferman or possibly Harold Weisberg. Although I read the Warren Report several times and discussed it with Dorothy Killgallen several times prior to its release I considered an index unnecessary as I felt that my personal contact with the case was adequate along the lines of research direction. I also erroneously assumed that your Index was the result of work by a highly competent librarian type completely detached from the realities involved in this case. In examining a recent edition of ESQUIRE I noted your contribution to the article "Who Killed Jack Kennedy?" for which you deserve high complement. It most certainly sharpened my appetite for your Index and also elicited the conclusion that we are getting close to a "break" in this case.

I am personally interested in H. Con. Res. 1023 and have been asked to contact other Representatives and Senators in regard to obtaining their support. As a former film documentary producer I filmed in the House and Senate studios and made many excellent connections. I intend to contact my friends in Washington but I feel that the "break" will come sooner than is expected. I also am associated with a television package which I hope will hasten a solution. In view of your magnificent contribution in the search for the truth I would consider it a privilege to talk to you for a few minutes at your convenience. Incidentally I was employed by U.N.R.R.A. in Southeast Asia and China from 1945 through 1950.

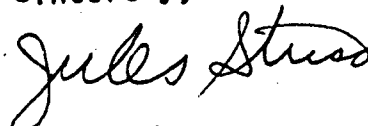
My position is rather unique in that a few hours after the assassination I was certain of a conspiracy. Two weeks after the publication of the Warren Commission Report I had material in my files which has recently been duplicated by Lane. Epstein, Popkin etc. In fact a publisher had an advance on his desk over 18 months ago but I decided to tackle the problem routing myself from the conspiracy to Dallas rather than move from Dallas to the conspiracy.

Quite obviously this is one of the most complicated cases ever to appear on the American scene. A confidential informant with the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, who is involved with another story nearly as big as the assassination and linked in an interesting manner, told me that the story was too big to solve alone. There is no question that knowing of "central plot" of the conspiracy and documenting usable evidence to roll the dominoes back to the source is nearly as difficult as establishing the complete identity of those in the "crossfire".

One of the approaches might be assisted by your Index in obtaining a "break" in one of the few weak links in a conspiracy planned by one of the great brains of our time. One of my filming associates once contacted Men Ray on a run into Cuba with the C.I.A. and Ray mentioned matters pertaining to his questioning by the Warren Commission. I was never able to find this specific reference and it may be that your Index will contain such information. Without going into detail I can say that Jack Ruby is a weak link so let us see if your Index holds some keys.

As I am doing some work at a studio near the U. N. it might be possible that sometime in the next few weeks you might be able to spare a few minutes. It could prove mutually profitable.

Sincerely,



Jules Striso

540 Tuckahoe Road  
Yonkers, N. Y.  
December 10, 1966

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher  
302 West 12th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Meagher:

I am looking forward to our meeting after the General Assembly with great anticipation. I will call you to arrange a time and place.

Am also looking forward to getting your Subject I from Scarecrow Press. Incidentally an item listed on the errata sheet you enclosed has already opened a new avenue of approach.

While with U.N.R.R.A. in China my last assignment was with C.L.A.R.A. which was the program Communist Libe Areas Relief Administration I met Mao Tze Tung, Chou En Chu Teh and Lin Piao prior to their taking over mainland I am presently doing some work dealing with the above Ch leaders. Although I maintain some journalist and film t with Peking I use them very carefully. I am in need of current photographs of the above men. Some time ago I h that a lady journalist, Liuba Solov has been doing work the U. N. In your daily travels you might just possibly have come across Miss. Solov. I would like to contact he to ascertain the possibility of buying some current photo for my article.

I note that my friend Harold Wesiberg has just rele WHITEWASH II which was mentioned yesterday in the N. Y. T He bases much on the Zapruder films and the camera speed. seem to be some question about the actual speed of the B Howell camera Zapruder used. Although I am not specifica interested in this area of enquiry I am going to get in t with my old friend Charles Percy who headed Bell and Howe prior to his becoming Governor to get the actual facts as have the camera. Charles Percy will give me the true fact. we might button that one up.

Looking forward to our meeting.

Cordially,

*Jules Striso*

Jules Striso

540 Tuckahoe Road  
Yonkers, N. Y.  
January 25, 1967

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

It was indeed a distinct pleasure in being able to talk to you over the phone the other evening. You certainly transmit a high degree of dedication and apparently you are a fine and sincere person. For reasons which I probably will never have the opportunity to explain our meeting probably would provide us with additional handicaps which we both do not need in our work.

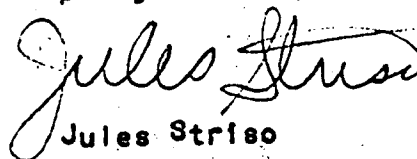
As you may recall I mentioned during our telephone conversation that I was calling from a public phone booth as I only use my private phone for matters which are in no way related to the direction that my enquiry moves.

Unfortunately the day that Orwell predicted may very well have arrived. I would strongly suggest that you avoid using your phone in discussing matters which you consider confidential or important.

In view of the fact that I originally made the contact requesting a meeting I must apologize for being unable to accept your more than kind offer to meet with me.

As I may have mentioned my knowledge of this case began long before the "happening" in Dallas. There is no middle ground in this matter. We either have a conspiracy or we do not! Most of the researchers become completely immersed in technicalities and when those technicalities indicate serious discrepancies the search for technical faults is accelerated. MOTIVATION or why did it happen the way most of us feel it did happen. When you get into this area and come up with some of the conclusions which are inescapable and we run into some terribly frightening things. Matters which many honest and uncorrupted men might well consider too dangerous to our international image to allow disclosure. They garrote the truth in order that the truth live....by their definition. The best of luck in your work.

Apologetically,

  
Jules Striso

540 Tuckahoe Road  
Yonkers, N. Y.  
February 8, 1967

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

My sincerest apologies for what happened the other evening. Undoubtedly very little of any value was accomplished and I am sorry that I wasted your valuable time.

Prior to visiting your apartment I got the whole bucket of hot rivets thrown at me and I just couldn't handle it. Under the circumstances I have decided to back off.

There is some possibility that I left some material in your apartment that I had intended to show you. If this is the case I would appreciate your sending it to me and I will send you the amount for the postage involved.

The best of luck in your future efforts. I feel that you are on the right track.

Apologetically,

  
Jules Striso