



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS
KINGSTON, ONTARIO

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Mr. Weisberg:

Thanks for your good letter and for the address of Richard Sprague. I sincerely appreciate that you should take the time from your busy and important affairs merely to send me a note. Thanks again.

I shall certainly get in touch with Mr. Sprague. I only regret that I have nothing to offer him but encouragement and good wishes.

An urgent personal matter brought me to Bowie, Md., while you were in New Orleans. I called your home in the hope that you might give me the opportunity of meeting you, but your wife (she sounded like a charming woman) told me that you would not return for a few days. I had to rush off to see my family in Trenton, N.J., and missed my chance. Too bad; it isn't often that one gets a chance to meet an ex-chicken-farmer turned "scavenger".

Playboy reviewed Oswald in New Orleans this month. It appears that you gave the reviewer a sound jolt and caused him seriously to doubt the integrity of the "investigation". I know how bewildered he must feel, for I can still remember the first shock of revelation that struck me; my life has not been the same since.

Most people in this area loved Kennedy as their own. It's amazing, really. When I came here a few years ago I learned that Canadians wept as hard as we did. Those who have not been brainwashed by the national press vaguely feel that some foul waters have been turned in the wake of the assassination, but nobody, not anybody, bothers to find out what is really going on. I feel alone here; I can talk to anyone about it, but but I can talk with none.

I have a very personal interest in wishing that Garrison and you and the other "scavengers" should succeed in persuading the American people that ~~we~~ our country has been shamelessly disgraced and that we may require a painful catharsis to erase our shame. It was not until I came to Canada that I began really to feel a sense of pride in my country; she was mine, I belonged to her, and I felt that no matter what she did, I would never think of myself as anything but an American. That may still be true, but if my people fail to acknowledge their responsibility to the ideals of truth and of justice, then I shall forsake them and renounce my citizenship. I would not love them less, but I could not call myself one of them.

A lot depends on the results of Garrison's trials, doesn't it? Let's see whether your books and the works of other people who love their country will be cataloged under "Hobbies and Games" or under "History".

We have a nation where justice requires that every man be presumed innocent until he is proved guilty; ~~what a sinister mockery of~~ what a sinister mockery of justice if Lee Harvey Oswald should be the poor man whom history presumed guilty even after he was proved innocent! Or if those who brought us to shame by cynically betraying our utmost trust should escape not merely with impunity, but with praise!

Sincerely,
Dick Bernabei
Dick Bernabei

1/11/67

Dear Mr. Bernstein,

My wife had told me of your call when I showed her. Sorry I wasn't home. I'd gone to N.O. to help Garrison, as I have three times now when it was possible. I'd written the book before I went there for the first time. Although it seems to have been publicly credited to others, it should not be apparent that those he is subpoenaing as witnesses come from my work. This is not what I helped him with. I'd welcome and subscribe to new witnesses in the Quarter and the Cuban colony.

I have yet to see the Playboy review. In fact, although I had been told it was to be done, I had not been told the date of its use or of its appearance. If it is not too much trouble, I'd appreciate a check. I may not get to buy it. That book even the reduced the number of shoulders Max Lerner has, which is quite an accomplishment, although it in no way impaired his capacity for carrying the same amount of water on each.

The reaction you report from Senators is consistent with what I have felt from them. I think Kennedy had an impact on people that was not, really, understood or even realized during his lifetime. And I think as he came to be aware of it and to believe it he changed, his Presidency with him. This may be one of the reasons for his murder.

The asserted slanders and libels blended with accusations that is the misrepresentation of my work and purposes has, to those who have not read it, served to disguise the basic fact: if I succeed I will not have damaged the government but will strengthen it, restore to it a measure of the respect and belief it has forfeited and, quite literally, have helped recapture the national honor. It is not merely a major crime to which I address myself but as the integrity of our society.

I understand your letter quite well, and I feel it. If you reread the dedication of my first books, I think you will understand it. And, of course, your conclusions are inevitable. This is why we continue in the face of the impending bankruptcy. And, we will do it!

Hastily,