

5/6/71

Dear Mary,

Late last night I returned from an absence of six exhausting days, the first lasting until 4:30 a.m., and the third so intense that I didn't have lunch until 8:30 p.m. The next day I didn't even have breakfast. I'm more pooped than I can recall, leave again for a trying day tomorrow, and have an enormous stack of accumulated mail. However, your kindness is such I must make prompt if hasty response. Of course, I'm very sorry about Arch, even if he never trusted me and never helped and never did the things he promised. He is a human being and he did, without doubt, have great dedication and the best and most sincere and unselfish motives. I hope he can still make it. Please do not give up until it is all over. Maybe it will not be. Let us all so hope, anyway.

I can't argue against the advice you give me because it is my own. So I do not. I merely ask you to answer two questions that I always have to: if I do not do it, will it get done? if I do not do it, what is the alternative? I hate all those side things. I want to write my way out of this, complete the work I can now put on paper. Every digression is a pain, a frustration, unworkable. I'm going to have to go out of the firm's business, though. I can't out them all out. The Boggs/ Bad business is much worse than I've let you know. I'm too confused, having had to leave as soon as I robe Boggs, I do not recall what I've sent you. The one advantage of all this is that Jim's eyes are open, and they have begun to learn. They delayed sending me papers that must be a the printer's tomorrow night until last night, and they didn't come today. So, via checked a few things with my by phone and learned he had made errors. Good I ask where is that great store of knowledge of the basic part of Smith's is they have to ask me questions about the spectrosc?

I've had to tilt at a few literary windmills. I'm hoping my tilting is better than Don Q's. I expect to make progress with the NITPees (4/4-Kaplan). Today I tore into Barkham and Gertz again. Copies to papers. Whatever does or does not happen, I do not think of her will repeat. And my own integrity was involved.

If it is not too much trouble, when you can I'd appreciate all those things relating to Oswald as an agent. I may have some in different form, but not likely in yours, so there may be differences.

If Jim is going to depend on Roger, God help those who tried to help Jim! The suit is a Playboy suit, for what Jim said in that interview. The sick looking to the sick!

My in-lion Jim is from an undependable source who has access to good sources but not from Jim or his office. I never hear from them and in time I'll address this, my own time and my own way. He needs me more than he knows, and I'll not be available. I've had it. And I can't afford those enormous time and emotional drains. If he does anything it is an inevitable disaster for all of us now. Unless he has made some deals, which is not impossible. One may be transparent. Even you do not know how much he blew.

My publisher is a major problem. I'm having to work around him. Fortunately, there are some wonderful young people who are enormous help in this. We are making slow progress, but there are prospects.

Hope Buck is making good progress. Our best to you all. I wish I thought I could get down there soon, but not likely. Sincerely, and thanks,

April 30, 1971

Dear Harold:

I was quite distressed by your letters (I received them both yesterday) about the Boggs matter. No, I didn't know anything about it... I am terribly sorry about it all. Is there anything you think I can do about it? To help, that is? Please let me know if there is.

Harold, dear, I'm going to give you some of the advice you have given me in the past, which has always helped... Try not to worry about the things you can't help. You can't take on the sins of the world!

You mentioned Arch. They give us absolutely no hope for Arch now. He has had four attacks. He is still in intensive care. There is a clot on the kidney, he has an infection, and is running a high temperature. They have been giving him blood thinner for the clot, anti-biotics for the infection, and they have him packed in ice for the fever. They let him out of intensive care last Friday (a week ago today) and he called me four times that night. He called his home the next morning at 7 a.m. and wanted to speak to his baby girl. It was the first time she had ever spent a night away from home and a neighbor had her to help Anne. Anne says little Elizabeth will regret it the rest of her life because those were the last words he spoke for almost a week. They moved him back to intensive care on Sunday night when he had another attack. He never spoke until Wednesday afternoon and then he said a few words to his brother who had just arrived. The nurse told me he actually smiled a bit. But then he had another attack last night, the worst one since the one that brought him into the hospital. I bought him a book about West Point and wrote him a letter with it last week... Anne said he was well enough to look at the book and read the letter Wednesday night. I am so glad about that. Losing Arch is going to be one of the most difficult things I'll ever go through.

Buck calls me from the hospital in Memphis every night or so to see how Arch is. Buck knows how much he means to me. I made a tearful statement to Buck the other night and was sorry I'd said it the minute it was out. I said, "Arch has always stood out, in my mind, like a giant among a lot of male pygmies." Buck just very quietly said, "Yes, I've always thought of him that way, too, Mary Elizabeth." As you've said so often, Harold, most of us have known far too many men we feel we'd be better off with enemies than them for friends... So few males are really men -- who will stand by their convictions and really be true to their friends.

Harold, you asked about my "files." I don't have my things separated like you do. I have the documents filed numerically and indexed on little 3 x 5 index cards. The only thing that comes to my mind about the "agent" thing is Henry Wade's statement which was repeated by Lonnie Hudkins and the bit about Jeremiah O'Leary in Washington. "Don't let O'Leary know you are in Washington asking questions" then the bit about Jerry O'Leary having died in New Zealand while

accompanying Kennedy and his party and having been buried in the Dallas area about the time of the assassination... and then three pages later, the statement by Jeremiah O'Leary in Washington after the assassination. It has all always been very strange to me. If you want all the references to that episode, I'll be happy to send it. Of course, the first day I ever met Marguerite Oswald, I made the statement that I didn't trust Marilyn Murreet and she said she had always known Marilyn was an agent and that she had a letter from Lillian, Marilyn's mother, saying that Marilyn worked for the government...

I'll check all my LHO index cards and run the references to see what I can come up with regarding his being an agent.

You asked about Garrison "starting up" again. He was in Los Angeles on the 16th of April publicizing his book. He was supposed to have been looking for Roger Craig in connection with a suit Gordon Novel has filed for quite a sum (\$25 million??), I think in Chicago. That's what I heard. I did hear that Garrison is going to again press forward with some of the suits he has had pending for some time. I imagine that includes Kerry Thornley and Tom Bethell but haven't heard definitely... I don't know how Roger Craig could help Jim with a suit by Gordon Novell...

I'll try to get to my cards tomorrow (Saturday) and write over the weekend about what I find.

Love to you and Lil,

Mary

One of the
few "real men"
I've known -