

Mrs. Katherine Weber
108 Beacon Road
Bethany, CT 06524

4/27/93

Dear Kathy,

Wonderful the great clamor for your unfinished novel! Would I had some for my completed book. Without an agent and with special interests at 80 and in the state of my health I doubt that any agent or publisher who does not know me and the track record of my books would be interested.

Let us hope that in the peace and tranquility of the Irish countryside/seacoast your mind will be clear and you can turn it out rapidly-and well!

If Sidney's FBI file(s) cost \$70 and run more than 800 pages they are withholding much from you. They sometimes make a search charge and then the xeroxing is 10¢ per page. While I have no knowledge of what these files hold I doubt that much, if any, relates to my visits to "airway Close. The FBI probably developed its interest in Sidney when he was in Hollywood. If it had no earlier interest in him, those with whom he then associated were of its perverted interest to the FBI. If there were only the names Toller and Buchman, they would have been enough, but undoubtedly there were others of interest to the FBI. And you may find that many of the pages you get are of reports in which others are the subject.

In practise the FBI pretends that all its records are at HQ and in response to requests searches HQ records only. But the field offices do not send all their records to HQ. At the same time, if you want the field office records, you have to ask for them in your request. With Sidney, if New York had no reason to open a file on him before he went to Los Angeles, LA would have copies to at least NYC and HQ, and thereafter NYC would have that file and would likely have added to it if not out of direct interest in Sidney because of its interests in those with whom he was in contact. Washington would have been involved, meaning the field office rather than HQ, from which it is separate, at least with his security clearances.

I recall no mention of Toller's widow but I do recall his saying that he owned the work and his high opinion of Toller and of his work.

Neither of us recalls the name Buchman, either. We agreed again after reading this letter that Sidney was two entirely different people, one with us and so different with his family. We do not recall even that he had two women friends at the same time.

Your telling me that Buchman was one of the Ten tells me also how much I've forgotten. I do not recall his names as one of them. I had some dealings with them, if that interests you. It turned out ^{to have been} with the informer among them and that cost me all the research for a book on the Dies UnAmericans. With whom I also had memorable experiences and to whom I did what nobody else ever did- got their agent convicted to two felonies when they came after me with a bad rap. One helluva, unprecedented fight- and Lil was my saving Mata Hari!

It was really monstrous for Sidney to have left such letters for children to find

knowing as all do that children prowl and explore- and should. It was no less monstrous a mistreatment of a wife who could see them without seeking them. I just shake my head in disbelief as I sit here and type, that wretched behavior of his is so opposite all ^{we} ever knew or saw about or in him.

Wd remember only one woman friend of his in Washington. We were together often. She was a pleasant person but lacking in the interests Sidney, Lil and I shared. We never saw him treat her badly and never heard him speak ill of her. While there may have been others, although he never boasted of any "conquests," I recall only one other woman he mentioned sleeping with, Martha Dodd. If you'd like, I'll tell you that story. It was not a usual story in any sense. Until then, however, ~~she~~ ^{was} rather unusual. Her life changes the last morning she left Sidney's bed.

If you did not learn from your parents or from reading, most of those who were persecuted by the UnAmericans were not Communists and a rather large proportion were actually anti-Communists. What those native fascists did was wrong regardless ~~with~~ of the beliefs of their victims, but most were New Deal types, as I was, and most were Jews and Catholics.

"Have your next affair with us" is a hilarious sign for a restaurant. Reminds me of Sidney's complaint when we took him to restaurants where we had special relationships and he found the food wonderful and he took someone there to make an impression and found the food was not as it was when he was with us.

Reminds me of a story you may enjoy.

It was not uncommon for Lil to be the only woman with a group of men, often political figures. There was a fine, family Italian restaurant across DeSales Street, the north side of the Mayflower Hotel. ^{Whenever} ~~Whenever~~ that happened, Gene, the owner of the excellent restaurant bearing his name, always put a bottle of Strega on the table before her. When that happened several times I asked him why he did that.

"Good for woman," he said. He meant Italians regarded it as an aphrodisiac.

Spring seemed to be beginning the day you wrote and one other day this month but here it was winter still the other days and as I look at the thermometer through the window by which I sit it is only 36 at 4 a.m. That tells me how to dress when I leave in a few moments for my early morning walking. When I ~~must~~ ^{must} spend more time sitting than walking. And when I listen to the car stereo and read. I did not go to your wedding because I feared my left leg, then well clotted, would not take it. I've survived three arterial operations on it and several others, including on the heart, and with other medical problems I've been fortunate to survive, although twice I was not expected to I've made 80 and I'm still productive and useful. My new monster of a book is according to two historians unprecedented and the most important work yet on our so tragic political assassinations. Doing 5,000 words a day was not unusual and some days I did more. And it is documented, thoroughly. So, as you wished, your letter finds me, all in all, "well" and happy despite all the many problems.

We- and Lil will read this after she is up - hope you find the peace and the state of mind for finishing your novel in Ireland. Our love to you all, including your mother, *Gene*

What is not clear on page 1, graf 1 is that after my many early efforts to get an agent and a publisher I gave up on both and ~~having~~ made a success of the book I was trying to get published when I was staying with you after I published it myself. Since then I have borne the Wordsworthian curse of being the first. Just this past Sunday I was told by a historian friend that his not exceptionally bright students like it much and some say it is like a mystery novel. It remains the basic book on the JFK assassination after 28 years.

Having subject-matter knowledge others do not have and not knowing how long doing anything will be possible for me I wrote the book primarily as a record for our history but with the hope it could be published. Most of what it needs is eliminating unintended repetition. From the speed at which I worked, without outline or notes of any kind, some unintended repetition was certain. But any competent editor can do that. I prefer to spend what time remains for me trying to further perfect the record for history.

This is a broad and a deep overview. I had another book with much narrower focus researched. After we had a furnace blowback and fine soot all over everything, a professional cleaning crew came in and cleaned up. It took two weeks! When they left, that open box with that research and some chapters drafted no longer existed. I suspect that a new worker filled the box and, unable to restore it to what it had been, instead of telling me just discarded it.

I have another well started. I'd rather finish it than edit the one drafted and leave that much more of an accurate record for history.

If after you get the Sidney records you have any questions, want to know what the file numbers mean or ~~what~~ there is so much redaction, let me know.

Most redaction will be of names. The most common reason will be allegedly to protect privacy. Some will also be to hide sources or identify informers. Rather not to identify them.

The first numbers in file identifications are classifications of those files. The next is the ~~serial number~~ identification of the file. The third is the serial number within any file. If Sidney is the subject of any file, if any serial number is missing, that represents what is withheld, if not explained to you.

We have remained disturbed that Sidney behaved so very badly with all of you. It was on my mind during my walking. I thought of someone who, if he is still alive, may be able to tell you more about Sidney as of before we knew him. He is Allan Chase. He became a medical writer. Last I saw him he had an apartment on West End Ave. at about 100. If there is no Allan and there is a ^Martha, his wife was named ^Martha.