

Dear Sylvia,

3/10/78

If you heard from ABC-TV or Good Morning America I gave them your number and urged that they consult you about the Epsteinker. (I hoped, of course, that they would invite you to appear on the same show, but I wanted the New York nuts of the show to have the facts faster than I could get them there. If I could get through with the facts.)

When last I wrote I suggested that you ask for fairness doctrine time for response. Since then events have moved so fast I had to do what I report, including making this request of ABC. If granted and you want to do it I'll gladly try to turn it over to you.

Some time back, after having established a friendly relationship with Steve Bell, I alerted him to the probability RD or its flacks would be proposing Epsteinker and that New York would probably be interested. I told him Epstein's wild theorizing was baseless and that if he wanted help with questions to ask I'd do what I could.

Yesterday afternoon, while I was at the far end of our long lane chopping ice, Bell did phone to report that Epsteinker is to be on Monday. He then did not know which segment. Today's promo said first segment, at 7 a.m. east coast. Most likely last quarter, which they regard as their best spot but not necessarily so.

I referred Bell to you and to Policoff and to Marion Johnson and to specific Nosenko documents. They looked up the records and as soon as I found the passport I phoned and told his researcher how to get a copy from Jim Lesar. I continued, finding 2676 and 2677. By then both Bell and Lamonica had left for the day. So I made copies and mailed them, on the chance they didn't get to get copies from Jim. Today I did reach Lamonica and read 2676 and 2677 to him as well as the embarkation date stamp at London airport.

We also talked about other facets. In the end I said that I'd written Bell asking for time to present the other side and that it please be forwarded to the right person. Lamonica asked me if I'd appear at the same time as Epstein. What else? Of course, I said. (I did not say that if Epstein were to find out, if ABC agrees, he'd not show.) I am now awaiting his call back. I do not expect GMA to go for this.

With this the last working day prior to early Monday morning events were moving too fast for me to do nothing. If it had been possible despite my reluctance to give my meager resources to Ma Bell I'd have phoned you last night. However, my phone stayed too busy. I mean continuously, until too late.

If I'd rather spend my time in other ways this experience leads me to believe I'd better be prepared to spend it in some kind of response. Eventually I'll want to have this kind of material available for writing, but that is in the future. I go into this in the hope that you'll be able to send me copies of anything you may do on this. Remember, I've not yet seen the book and I can't justify taking time now to read it. I've read New York and Digest I.

I've taken a little added time. I've sent an FOIA request to the FBI. It just may see that it can have an interest in not stonewalling that request. It is said that there is always a first. Maybe this can be that first.

Epsteinker has done with JFK what Lane has done with King: of all the significant things that can be said with fairness and honesty he has succeeded in the virtually impossible- defaming the FBI. From the records I've been able to obtain relating to Nosenko I believe that Hoover and the FBI behaved properly. There was the suspicion Oswald was an agent. As Dulles himself said in the 1/27 transcript, this meant not FBI but CIA. So the FBI would have been correct to hold it to itself until it was satisfied with the results of its interviews and any inquiries. It was also right, if not without possible political motive (against CIA) in getting Nosenko to agree to testify before the WC. The CIA's effort thereafter was successful -to prevent this. If Nosenko had been a KGB disinformation agent it would have been helpful to get him questioned under oath, so this does not explain the CIA's operation. Excuse the haste, please. Best wishes,