

Dear Sylvia,

12/14/82

I'm so glad you are enjoying retirement! I suppose I might now classify myself as semi-retired because I'm taking time for the simple pleasures I did not enjoy for so many years, from reading novels to baseball games (on TV only) and an occasional football game. They are semi-pleasures because they provide time for prescribed exercises and also prescribed foot soakings.

If I was aware of your chest problem I'd forgotten it. I've learned that we can live with these things but are lucky if we can avoid their complications. Of which I found two more than enough!

That someone has done a book on Allard Lowenstein is great! He was a wonderful human being. He did me the kindness, next to the last time I saw him, to come to an appearance with Groden at Barnard and to look me up afterward. Last time was at an NSA convention in Washington, where we were on a panel together and lunched later.

His influence on young people was extraordinarily good and I hope it is dealt with adequately in the book. At NSA their devotion to him was touching. And firm, to see to it that he made his plane. They'd learned!

You made no mention of still and motion pictures you believe may have been Dallas or New Orleans FBI records, but can that be because I forgot to ask you? It is one of the remaining many points in the field office & FBI/FOIA cases and they have offered to give me up to 100 8x10 glossy prints. They are trying to pull tricks and I've caught them, but we have a sycophantic judge. But if I can identify that that are more important, I think I'll be able to get them. So, any suggestions?

Have you and/or Roger had any contact with any of the experts in the matter of the police tapes? I'm after that and I've caught them lying about it again, under oath. (The FBI prefers its lies to be sworn to so it can enjoy its immunities.) I should be getting the best possible dubs and I'll try to have them made outside the FBI. FYI, those tapes never left Dallas. The transcripts were made there and I've got the proof.

On this I've sent the Dallas people what I feel they've failed to use, the fact that in making the dubs the FBI had to play them aloud and then record again. I provided at least the possibility of crosstalk, which may be the entire basis of the report of the fink NAS panel.

Because I did not have their personal interest I may not have made copies for myself of all I sent them and I now have no way of knowing.

I've also given Fensterwald and Lesar copies for the other fink, Blakey, who may be able to use them.

Please excuse my haste because of a pleasant change in our lives and because tomorrow and the next day I have two regular checkups tomorrow in Washington, by the surgeon, and the next day by the podiatrist I now have to use. The pleasant change is the comparative luxury provided by Social Security. With my home paid for and no rent or mortgage payments to drain us and my wife's, which is somewhat more (mine must be close to the lowest scale) we can go out for inexpensive dinners when she is tired or just wants to go out. Tonight we are.

Best to Roger and the others I know.

And best wishes for you and especially your health,



December 6, 1982

Dear Harold,

I was excited to find a letter from you in my mail box this morning, after such a long time. It is really good to hear from you, and to learn that your long, long FOIA efforts may be coming to fruition. All of the critics are really indebted to you for carrying on this fight against every obstacle that a corrupt and shameless government has put in your path.

As for myself, let me reassure you that I am very well. I did have to spend two weeks in the hospital in June but have been fine since then. Of course, my chest is permanently vulnerable — I am just getting over bronchitis, cough, and laryngitis. But that is bearable, so long as I do not have asthma, which happily I do not have.

I enjoy retirement and have done very little since I indexed the HSCA volumes. Just now, I am indexing a forthcoming book on Allan Lowenstein, who was a cherished friend and whose death devastated me.

Do keep well, dear Harold.

With warm affection,

Sylvia