

2/13/71

Dear Sylvia,

With your kind note of the 12th in today's mail, remarkable speed for my mail of late, is the ultimate self-defamation from the Archives of which I'll not take time not because I'm under great pressure to get my court papers done by Tuesday. In fact, this is so disquieting that I feel I must leave it alone for a while for my emotions to settle a bit.

Jerry told me of reading the review to his. He is a fine young man with the best intentions, serious interest, but less specific knowledge than other because his time is limited by full-time college and full-time work. He also told me of your position vis-a-vis Tink, and I can understand it. I fear that for the most part, having been his own kind of Garrison and copped out even earlier, Tink will salve his own conscience by pretending to help others with relationships with the Liftons but not with any doing any current work. I do not share the view of others that these photos that have attracted attention hold real meaningful possibilities, but some that Tink has that have not attracted attention do, and it is these I'd like subjected to the kind of technical examination and treatment even LIFE didn't have and didn't do, what is now available to me and has, with old material, produced spectacular results. While I do not share your view of Tink, I also will not start a fight with him. As he probably didn't tell you, long ago he discouraged others from doing any work, fairly pointedly. One such sent me his letter.

This morning's Post carries a long story on Epstein's ultimate finkery, on the New Yorker. Do Not Buy a copy for me. However, if you should see one someone is about to discard of has, I'd like to read it. That is a subject on which I am expert, included aspects in COUP, and Epstein here is running interference for no less than Hoover himself. His facts are non-facts, and the official intent against the Panthers, whatever one thinks of them, could not be more clear, in many places. I was so certain something of this sort was about to happen it had such a forecast, albeit elliptically, in the COUP as of that time. This had to be edited out of FRAME-UP.

As I believe I wrote everyone after contracting that book, the contract provides we with only 8 free copies, which will not take care of what either my wife's closer relatives or my own will require. It also provides that I can get copies at some discount, what I do not now recall, but I would imagine that it would be much less than the \$10.00 price of the book. Even if I add the cost of packaging and mailing, it should result in a saving of \$3.00-\$3.50, which I'll be only too happy to make for any of us. These sums may look small, but with my financial conditions, I always translate them. To me that means at least 30 pages somebody can buy from the Archives. If you'd like a copy of the review and Jerry hasn't sent it, let me know and I'll copy one for you. I was as surprised as I was pleased, specially because it was in print less than a month after proofs were first available, and the proofs contain none of the (I think) impressive facsimiles. I hope you will find it in no way (save turgidity) exaggerated.

I'm aware of the Ford troubles, having saved that story from the Post, and while I saw nothing in it on Powell, I caught a fragment on radio news. Rankin can't begin to have the trouble he ought. If you have clippings on him, Powell or Boggs (I forgot or I missed that), I'd appreciate copies. My own estimate, since I suppose the end of 1966 at the latest, is that the major responsibility is Rankin's. I believe I felt this from the first, from my own experience on such bodies, but after all this time, can I be certain. In a sense, I addressed this in the Introduction to WW, so I suspect I had this belief about his responsibilities from the first. Again thanks, and let us hope, as I do believe, that we will live long enough to see it.

Sincerely,

12 February 1971

Dear Harold,

Congratulations on the excellent advance review of your forthcoming book on James Earl Ray in Publisher's Weekly — it was read to me over the phone. I am really looking forward to reading the book as soon as it comes out. Please send me the title, the date of publication, and the name of the publisher, so that I can order a copy from my bookdealer.

I am bemused by the recent and unfavorable publicity received in the New York press, in the space of a few short weeks, by John Connally, J. Lee Rankin, Gerald Ford, Hale Boggs, and Lewis Powell of the ABA — all of whom were directly implicated in the malodorous Warren Report.

Perhaps if we live long enough, we will see every one of that gang exposed for what he is, and it will even occur to the news media that such compromised men could not have produced an uncorrupt document.

And turtles will fly.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sylvia", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.