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5/27/66

Dear Sylvia,

I am too busy, with days beginning too early, but I want to hastily write you of my recent by short visits to the Archives, for necessities forecast several weeks ago. I expect to be there on several, perhaps again too brief, occasions in the coming week or two. I have not forgotten the questions to which you'd like answers, in your letter of March 3. Perhaps you have discussed the one of the source of the case about the FBI quoting the autopsy with Salandria. His recollection may be better than mine, but it is mine that they make not even the slightest reference to it. The first section of this report, on the Assassination, is a mere 500 ~~page~~ words and the rest is the prosecution case. Incidentally, if you wonder about the conflicting versions of the number of volumes to this report. There are five, but the fifth is not on the assassination, it is on Ruby and is classified.

I now have the bibliography. My copy is less clear than it might be. When you speak to Salandria, call to his attention the notations in the margin indicating which Commission staff members had which documents. These might in the future, as more is learned, have a significance that can now only be imagined, for the files are not intact.

In my recent visits to the Archives, I have had pressing and immediate needs. One of the files I have gone over carefully is Document 371, or Exhibit 397. It is not complete, and it does not include what Huges testified to having in his hand when he was before the Commission. There is not a single one of his working papers in it. There is not a single original in it. The Xeroxed copy of the autopsy chart is much less distinct than the one I printed. Yesterday I was to have picked up these documents from this file that prove it is incomplete. Perhaps I'll be able to today. Shortly I have to leave for Frederick, and after my return I shall leave for Washington, but the days is shortened. Enclosed is the carbon of a letter I shall deliver to Marion Johnson, custodian of the file. If you have anything to add to these questions, or any questions about them, please let me know. Please return it when you have read it. I was accompanied by a lawyer. I am convinced there is a story in these films beyond my competence to ferret out. What we saw cannot possibly be the entire Zapruder film. They do not show - and their slide trays do not contain - frames 208-11. 208 has been altered, whether accidentally or not I do not know.

I anticipate a news break very soon. Whether it will also be a break in the head I do not know. The first copies of the Epstein book of which I have knowledge reached the Press Thursday. Their salesmen were offering it in Washington for an unspecified date in June several days ago. I am, of course, anxious to see it. What is the release date, if you know?

Had several inquiries and orders from California. If through you, thanks. But I'll need an awful lot more and very fast to make the next payment to the printer, due the 10th....If you see any press in NYC, please clip it for me, will you? Had a good story in the London Times, which I have loaned to a bookstore, where the book is doing very well, two in France which I haven't seen, perhaps more. One by Alain

Clement in Le Monde and the other, perhaps wire service, I have no knowledge of, other than that it was filed. Reuters would move nothing because US press didn't. AP killed story on desk. And so forth. But I keep working away at it.

You earlier asked me about the bullets, etc. These and the spectrographic analysis are in the custody of the FBI, as are the test bullets. The autopsy pix and Xrays are in the custody of the Secret Service. Neither is in the archives, even in classified condition. I have written the appropriate heads demanding access and release. I have also requested access to Jackie Kennedy's suppressed testimony. It is, of course, possible that she says nothing of value. But she is by far the closest eye-witness of the killing, and she was looking at the President when this shot or shots hit (and I'm beginning to suspect, perhaps based on ignorance, that he was hit almost simultaneously by two shots), Gore alone is not reason for suppressing this testimony, for Gore, as you know, already abounds in the record. In the movies I did not see the pieces of scalp one of the agents said she went after - was it Roberts? On several frames there were blotches of what appeared to be dirt, or perhaps imperfections in the raw film. While I may accomplish nothing, I shall leave a record.

You once mentioned the motion of the President's body. Was it earlier in the film or at 313?

My extensive personal contact with the press recently persuades me the late President had such friends he had no need of enemies.

The 371 documents I'm getting, so you'll know, are the receipt signed by Bouck, Secret Service, and the earlier one, not in the exhibit, from the doctors. If you want, I'll make copies or summarize for you when I get them. This includes the films and Xrays, in a cation or box as I recall, non-documentary objects, like pieces of bronze, etc. And it should include all Humes notes, necessary to any autopsy, and not a single one is in the file. He ~~states~~<sup>states</sup> (my page 183) that he on the stand held in his hand some handwritten notes of his own made during the examination of the President's body. I certainly want to see them. Remember the Trevor-Roper flap? The story is these were not destroyed.

Disappointed not to have heard from Sauvage. Not a single one of the small magazines has responded to my request for advertising on a per order basis or for them to sell the book at the bookstore's profit. Not a single review in any of them of which I knew (and I've given or sent about a thousand dollar's worth of these books, some costing as much as \$2.66 a copy to mail!). Expect something in next BOOKS. Not a single expression of interest from any of the "liberal" writers, some from others. But it will yet happen. First scheduled radio interview 6/4. Series of others on prime a.m. time being considered. TV network called its inquiring Washington reporter off. Meanwhile, I have been preparing all along for a press conference, once I have reason to believe it may succeed.

Sincerely,