

9/9/67

Dear Sylvia,

Thanks for your letter of 9/5. Of course, we agree on Manchester. If you ever write about that incident with MacNeil, I'll compare the letter MacNeil wrote me several days earlier with what he wrote Shirley. I think ~~hans~~ included everything in hers that he had in mine, but I would check. I'll be back on that book when I finish my current work and would naturally be checking it then. I, too, as does Shirley, think this was Allman, and I so wrote MacNeil, to see if that jogs anything.

Because I knew you were as busy as you report, I did not mail my 75-page commentary on the CBS stuff. I have it if you want to read and have sent copies to Maggie, Hal, Bill for suggestions. The decision with respect to the CCI fortifies my belief that a personal one was called for because there is the question of personal damage that might or might not be of some weight.

Beverly Brunson is an imaginative poet. I've never met her. I do not know which of her theories she wrote you about. The most recent one to me has to do with the Altgens pictures, in various versions of which she sees inconsistent things. Like on the windshield-wiper arm of the vp follow-up car.

Hal Verb also saw Lane before his departure for the same destination. Your concluding comment is so pertinent and ~~saxzagixixixix~~ exquisite! It may already have been gained and lost a case. According to Hal, Lane has a book on the press on this subject (can't you not imagine it is all discrimination against him and how he suffered from it) that Holt is or was to do before purchase by CBS. I think such a book could be very important if it were done honestly and thoroughly. "one of what happened, after the assassination and after the criticisms, <sup>could</sup> had it not been for the servile press. I do hope he does that, and tries to be honest about it.

After getting your NYR letter I tried to buy a NYR when we were in Frederick Thursday night. The distributor never heard of it. But you should see what he has heard of! I'd no idea there are so many vile pseudo-newspapers. From Avon, where NYR had already made its pitch for another book, and from Jones, I'd heard of its coming. I'll probably be able to pick up a copy next week in DC.

Sincerely,

5 September 1967

Dear Harold,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 2nd, the information in it about the radio shows, the enclosed copies of your letters, and the Robert MacNeil letter to Shirley. That is certainly most interesting. That he took the trouble to write this detailed account, not only to Shirley but to you as well, suggests concern about the objective facts on MacNeil's part, and that he may be sympathetic, or at least neutral, toward the critics of the WR. On balance, I remain inclined to think that it was Pierce Allman who encountered Oswald, and not MacNeil, for the reasons MacNeil himself gave—that he did not display credentials but was wearing a large press badge (while Allman, being a local TV newsman, did pull out ID which might have been taken at a glance for Secret Service ID); and that he did not have a crew cut. It is an interesting commentary on Manchester the "researcher" and "historian" that he paid no attention to these disqualifying facts and published for future generations (which fortunately will have been forewarned about his total default as a fact-finder or a decent human being by the growing literature of disgust with this dirty creature) the facile and false information that it was MacNeil who met Oswald, not even as a theory but as a fact. What a scum he is, Manchester.

Nothing much to report. I've been ferociously busy with office work, a meeting of experts on social welfare, which can be (and has been) nightmarish, as well as comical. By the way, Beverly Brunson of Kansas contacted me not long ago, and we have exchanged some letters on various matters of mutual interest, including poetry and UFOs. I am not certain that I really understand her theory. What do you make of it? She writes that she heard from Bill Turner and that he was rather encouraging, or at least inclined to take it seriously ("logical" and "possible"). In any case, it does not tax my credulity quite so much as Lifton's hollowed-out knoll with bunkers or barracks, a theory elaborated again in a 12-page affair of March 1967 which arrived in the mail tonight. Maggie tells me that Lane was in Los Angeles last Friday, en route to New Orleans where he will stay, indefinitely, it seems. Lose a Gurchich, gain a Lane.

AS always,

