

8/2/67

Dear Sylvia,

In the few minutes before I go for the mail I'll try and tell you briefly about a few things I'll tell you about in detail whenever we get together. I'd rather not mention them unnecessarily in writing or by phone. I gather in talking to Bill last night that you know the essence of the "Lovelady" story. I do not know what, if anything, LIFE is going to do about it. Billings has stayed very busy and has finally decided to send someone else. Unless that works out much better than something in California did, I expect nothing to come of it. Penn has seen the two shirts. I phoned him and asked him to check it out. The second shirt is, he says, exactly as I describe. I presume you know this is in the Martin film also.

Someone who read my first two books recognized Hall and got some potentially sensational data. He wrote me c/o Bell, which delayed the letter. He also wrote Garrison. We both turned to LIFE, which did the most stupid thing possible, sent a Latin (trusted by Billings, who selected him because he had worked with him and because he knew the Cuban situation) who promptly became St. Edgar himself and instead of getting the data waiting for him played St. Edgar. He has about 8 hours of Hall, who he knew from Florida, hardly a recommendation, on tape. You can be certain that whatever value it might have, it does not include a confession. I had phoned this man immediately and with his permission taped him. LIFE never did do the simple, essential thing: get what he had. In fact, they stood him and his associate up several times, running them around and not keeping dates. The net result is that the colleague froze, will not take calls or speak to anyone, and everyone is alerted. The FBI is on the scene, has been in touch with my man's employer and, I am confident, done everything they have no proper business doing. When I spoke to this man, I gave him Bill's phone and asked him to phone Bill the morning of 7/21 if LIFE did not get these things from him the day before. Bill's phone stayed busy all the time he had available, a rather bad break. I phoned Bill last night. He will see if there are any pieces left to pick up. Please say nothing about this. The data includes the notation of the name and proper address of the one person who above all we would like to find in his records.

My New Orleans book is being delayed until after the middle of the month because Garrison, who is writing an introduction, is too busy to do it before then. He is also writing a piece for Playboy, which can help his investigation no end. But Parallax is not doing the appendix. I feel that I must, but I anticipate a financial loss, because my book will be a very large one, more than twice the size of anything I have yet printed, and it will have immediate cheap competition. More, the effort to suppress me is greater than ever. I feel that CBS has brought pressure on its affiliates, for several have not done things they said they would. Aside from the Times story, I had a mention of a Steve Frederick's show, one on KSL, and two good hours (but the worst two, midnight to 2 a.m.) with Jack McInney. No other mention. AP had me on the phone for more than an hour, but said nothing. With no advertising budget and the continuing suppression by the left-wing press, this makes serious problems for me and denies the book the market place. WNEW has made me many promises, broken every one of them, and I just do not have the money to travel and get exposure. Or the time, if I am to continue my work. One break, Garrison is calling Bob Scott as a witness. I had primed Scott. I phoned Dean Andrews on a beep line and I have a tape-recorded prediction of when Andrews would perjure himself, etc. I gave it to Jim and it is in my N.O. book. Best regards. Good Kuchel letter. No ans. to mine.

Garrison will refer Kuchel to Andrews this 8/9