

1/29/72

dear ed,

you are in low spirits (your 1/27). you are saying close to what everyone said to me through all of 1965 and half of 1966, and it was true then. the impossible takes a bit longer. it not only can be, it must be. and it will be!

i hope the move to canada turns out as you hope. glad to have you here. but i must leave on the 7th and expect to return the night of the 8th. please also be prepared for more than the usual chaos, for this is the one time of the year we have any income, slight as it is. my wife is a Block tax consultant and has no time for housework.

everything you say of sylvia as a person and of her mind is correct. however, her advice is as error-prone as anyone's. if you doubt, i will show you where she argued with me in early 1969 that no good book on this subject would have trouble finding a publisher. our tragedy is that she had no choice but to drop out. this means she is, including with the advice she gives, locked into the past. how we could use her great mind and enormous talents! the more so since there are now so very, very few, of whom you can count all doing any kind of real work on the fingers of a single hand.

i wrote all the critics well in advance of the lattimer ploy, for i had anticipated it a year ago and attempted to enlist help that would and could have come as close as we ever have to breaking this thing open. no responses of any kind a year ago and none of any value in the very few which did come as a result of my september alert. all were hung up on the past. and you are the first to agree with me that lattimer was their bad mistake. others, save possibly jerry and howard: silence. there is more in the works. i do not know how much i have been able to influence it. the lattimer thing provided us with great possibilities, but those with the means required for its exploitation either did not see it, would not discuss or consider it, or just did not care. however, you have not thought this through. to evaluate it as an error, you have to know their purposes. i can conceive those which make it a success, tho a p.r. fiasco. and some of us, the more dedicated and the more blind (and as i increasingly suspect, the more ambitious or selfish) may yet salvage them. if it happens, and if it does it will despite my warnings, i will drop everything and do what i started in 1968 as A CITIZEN'S DESCENT, now retitled THE MARDI GRAS SOLUTION TO THE JFK PLOT. it can be a commercially-acceptable book and it would be designed as a purgative. we need one, and the younger ones are entitled to it.

sahl, as i have told you and have feared since i met him and did a 3-hour show with him in late 1967, is as sick as he can be brilliant. arrogance is an inadequate characterization. evil is also an inadequate description of gervais. in his special kind of crookedness and at survival he is brilliant.

i think you are correct in timing the new cia offensive to green beret case, but it had to have been cooking earlier. such geniuses as salandria and garrison went for that good-guy stuff fast, as i tried to warn jim and others. it is to say the head is good and the body evil. however, the omissions from the pentagon papers need not be sinister, except as related to the media, for i would not have expected the papers that could be used vs. the cia to be out of its possession. at that, a careful reading of the bantam edition shows they not "good" but intent upon success and no better than able to recognize failure only long after it was apparent.

re: walton and the hint of foul play with adlai: did you notice the change in severed that coincided with this? he was with stevenson when he died.

from what is now known of be guessed, your hunch on frank makes more sense than anything else. i have already raised this question with bud, who was to have come here tomorrow to discuss this and other matters and now can't. i gave him a memo on what we should do as soon as you told me of the book-club arrangements, a real tipoff. you are right in suggesting official help, for he blurted out to me a) that he had the king autopsy photos and b) not from canale...disagree on the use that could be made of PM. certainty, no; possibility, yes. timing right this minute: superb. prospects: zero. you don't know what it says and has and proves, inc. on Hoover and the military. best and thanks for clips,

1/27/72

Dear Harold,
Early Retirement
was quite apt! I'm leaving in
late Feb. for Canada. My wife
and child are there already.
I plan to visit you before
my departure. I'll call you
next week.

On your general situation:
I cannot see a viable publishing
possibility for you on the N.F.K.
assassination for a wide variety
of reasons and one is bad
enough!

The other critics are usually
sources of only bad advice.
Sylvia is the exception. Unselfish,
a dedicated seeker of truth,
a wonderful mind, she is a
truly beautiful person. You
can trust her advice, my friend!
SAB: "J.G. had loaned Gervais
money and Gervais was not
paying him!"

Gervais and J.G.: an evil man
and a desperately ill man
but given J.G., a situation of

this type of war was only
inevitable.

Hersch: Now fashionable to
attack the military! Where did
he obtain this classified data?
The current Foreign Affairs, an
organ of The C.F.R. (McClay, Bundy,
Kissinger etc.) carries the same
"line". The Pentagon was so
wrong on Vietnam and we (The
CIA) warned the Govt., too. What
good says are we (The CIA) and
how says they! The CIA humiliation
of General Abrams in The Green
Beret Case was indicative.

Of course, the revelation of
Diem's negotiations won't be
found in The Pentagon Papers.

Walton: Oddly enough in
his caustic biography of Stevenson
he mentioned the rumor that
his death was unnatural.

Lattimer: A serious Govt.
error! They should have
let sleeping dogs lie but
opened a Pandora's Box. Of
course, every analysis is
different but each one
confirms The W.R.!

G. Frank: I assume only
the worst unless he has

a play, perhaps directed by
Washington because his "one put
lifetime won't sell."

I do not believe P.M., whatever
its content, would alter the
situation. It would be
divided because if they can't
buy the book, they would
buy the author. Fortunately,
human termination of authors
has become gratuitous since
media control is nearly ab-
solute.

As I have told J.P., media
publication is nothing, a stone
in the Atlantic raises few
waves.

Sorry to sound so
bleak.

Sincerely,

