

10 November 1971

Dear Harold:

Your mailing of Nov. 6 came in today, or rather yesterday, and there's time for a note to say we thought your letter to EMK's administrative assistant was very good, bending over backward to be fair and considerate. You have done what you can, certainly. Now it's up to him. No one can say you didn't lay it right on the line.

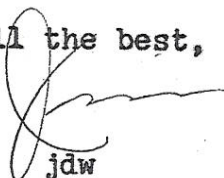
Regarding the Kennedys and their attitude all along, my impression is that most of their critics (this doesn't necessarily include you, for we have no clear indication how you feel on this) never have given adequate weight to the factor of terror in their situation. The general assumption is that they are all lousy rich and don't need to worry about such things. This is fallacious, in our opinion. The rich habitually worry about kidnaping for ransom if nothing else, and to assume the Kennedys were in any way immune to the influence of terror is unjustified. In fact, an objective review of their behaviour suggests fear as the controlling element in all they have done and in much that they haven't done since the JFK assassination. EMK does, it is true, continue to speak out on liberal causes, but he never mentions the assassinations if he can avoid it, and when he does treats them as obliquely as possible.

One reason we feel this is a scrap of information we picked up some years ago from a very good friend, who gave it to us in strict confidence, and for this reason we shall say no more about it than we do here. This was to the effect that a teenaged ~~xxxx~~ cousin of the Kennedys remarked (I place the time at well after EMK's first plane accident and well before Bobby got it) that "we all know Uncle Jack was not killed by just one man." Coming from a very young teenager, this impresses me as more nearly representative of the family state of mind than all the bland disclaimers of suspicion and ~~xxxx~~ interest. If it reflects the central convictions of the family it means they felt their only protection was never to challenge the official story openly, never to display any sign of further concern. You will recall that Bobby never made the slightest comment on JFK's assassination until late in June, 1964, and then he was in Krakow, Poland, and answered a student's question by saying he believed Oswald shot JFK because he was a misfit in American society, not because he was a Communist.

Perhaps we accord this fear factor too much weight, and it is certainly true as you point out that politics and bureaucratic restraints affected much that Bobby did and didn't do and say. Nevertheless we feel the knowledge that all the men in the family were marked if they got out of line must not only have affected them but perhaps even more profoundly the women in the family.

We note your notation on Foreman and will be alert for anything that turns up. We would have been anyway, knowing your interest, but we'll keep an extra eye peeled.

All the best,



jdw