

7/14/77

Dear Len,

Coincidence that you wrote me day before yesterday and I got a release from a source to speak to you last night.

I also appreciate your offer of an affidavit on the remission of costs in my FOIA suits. I've drafted a letter that in time my wife will retype. I'll enclose the unedited and often-interrupted draft.

While there may be private information in the records you obtained from the FBI and CIA, if there is not I would like to ask you for permission to deposit it with my other papers at Wisconsin and to be able to copy it or pay for copies. The reason I can't do it as you offer is that I am not able to drive to Washington now and have no "people" to whom I can delegate the review. There are a couple of bright college girls who'll be back in D.C. once the fall semester begins but Jim is already too overloaded. You may not recall but last September you let me have a few pages I used in a court record in one of my suits to establish discrimination against me.

My interest in what you get from the speakeries has nothing to do with you or Jack personally. One thing I'd look for is omissions. I am almost certain I can now specify where there will be some. You do not have the depth of interest in such records that I do. Another is for use in establishing compliance or non-compliance with my FOIA/PA requests. (The FBI is remarkably slow getting around to it, my request being prior to yours, but they have finally said they are reviewing and that they have six volumes on me. They also claim to have destroyed some of my property, records relating to a plot to overthrow the government. They waited 30 years to destroy, if one believes them. I'm hoping some heavy ridicule on the operating level will blow them back out of the memory hole.) If you would not want another to see these records I would return all copies and indicate those I think I can use in FOIA/PA cases. But if there is no such problem for you I do think they have historical value as part of a university archive and I would like to go over them with care, as I cannot except here. I would, of course, pay the xeroxing costs and I would not ask you to ask one of your people to put in this much time. If nothing else is practical perhaps when you come you can bring them and while you are going over the several thousand pages here that you want to see my wife can make copies on our machine.

On the affidavit on the remission of costs I believe the important content is that I make available to others, essentially to the people, what I obtain by these cases. Some of the copies Chuck Elliott never returned in 1971 were such records. You have no personal knowledge save that I asked you to try to locate them in 1973. They were from G.A. 718-70. (The courts have reversed the sequence of number and year since then.) In addition to anything else you may have in mind you may recall that as a result of my obtaining and studying these records I can help in other ways, as the time you saw me in the hospital and I told you how to establish the back channel. Other times when officials sought to plant newspapers as propaganda. And you know that the files of interest to you are and have been available.

In today's mail the rascals at DJ have hedged, according to the letter Jim got on deadline day. They've offered me a 40% discount. I've told Jim to accept it subject to the preservation of my right to get it all back, a right reserved a year and a half ago anyway, and then to file in court. Rather than the DJ sending the money to me I've asked him to put it in a special if small account I keep in Washington and on which he alone draws checks. He can then use this immediate recovery in further such litigation. (Did you ever know you can split shoe-strings? Bing it for years!)

Sorry we've never been able to talk about the possible non-fiction novels. There are a number of possibilities. Thanks again and best wishes,