

11/3/77

Dear Dave,

Although Jim gave me a copy of his motion for the remission of costs in the King case before yesterday morning's calendar call I did not read it until now, just before bedtime. This means I've just read your affidavit. For which many thanks.

Not knowing what Jim would want or need for yesterday and knowing that what I'd prepare could be of use later I'd spend time taken from re-viewing the most recent records in preparation. Once home, as soon as I cleaned up other things I returned to reading the most recent records. There was just enough time to read Jim's fine job before a not too late bedding after I finished the volume on which I was working so I decided to read it. If that volume of records had taken a half-hour longer I'd still not have read your affidavit by now. Thus the thanks is belated.

I didn't write the exact number of pages the boasting government told the judge they had given me. It is over 44,000 from the FBI.

This is most but not all. There are more to come from Justice and relatively few from the FBI now. The CIA is still stonewalling. Most of what will come from the FBI now is what has been withheld, completely or by obliteration.

If Dreyfus likes numbers, give him this one and the assurance that there is more than a file cabinet of King materials/Ray material in addition. Also, the boaster told us, Jim and me, that in only one case have they ever given anyone as many records. There are more in the Beerpol case. They are the sons of the Rosenbergs.

Jim has a complete duplicate set of the headquarters file. I wanted him to have it for two reasons, first in the event of need in present litigation or later and ultimately for deposit with his own papers, which I have a notion he may want to give to the Madison law school or another. But that won't be for years.

I had started to make a second duplicate set, for me to use now as a working set and to give you two sets, one the originals exactly as I received them and another for use while the originals remained preserved and intact. By the time I'd paid for doing this with about 20-25% of the records this became too great a financial burden. You'll have to duplicate the rest yourself after you receive all of this.

I have duplicated, in addition, several file drawers of records of possible interest in my writing and of special interest as a reflection of the domestic intelligence operation, which for Memphis was on a vastness you'd never imagine.

The Lardner story Jim attached did not appear in the edition of the Post that reaches up, the earliest edition. It probably was represented in a shorter version. ...

It is not possible to exaggerate the richness of these records for scholarship. Nor the difficulty of wringing them dry. They can represent an entire career for a young professor who is willing to become a specialist. They tell an incredible amount about the country and the institutions, too. They hold enormous value for sociologists, too.

I wish this case were over so I could get to writing. But I had to spend some time this evening searching this stuff to answer some Lardner questions about some. He will be using some without attribution. You will also see some without attribution next week. These are necessary means in the continuing effort to end the stonewalling and obtain maximum possible compliance. Lardner will be aiming toward the committee. The other will be FBI, explicitly and representatively. Shockingly to me, too - still.

Best to everyone,