

I returned from the regular checkup with Dr. Hufnagel (good report again) tired as usual and because it is a nice day and I'll be resting later when I look at the Cubs playoff game (the Cinderella background of which might interest Jennifer) this hasty note after reading Paul Hoch's 9/30. copy enclosed. It came today.

As you can see from the other side, I'm not at all wedded to the idea that filing my affidavits is essential and I started to write you telling you this and intending to go farther after we spoke last weekend but got interrupted and never got back to it.

As by now you also know I figured Paul's utterly selfish and to me entirely irresponsible position with perfect accuracy. So, and I think softly and politely enough, I tried to make him see that when he files FOIA suits he assumes obligations he ought meet and if he doesn't intend to be unselfish^{ness} ought not file any. He had not received what I wrote by the time he wrote me.

While he indicates that he will confer with you on motions to be filed, if not also saying that he will take your advice, he eliminates any doubt about his selfishness in the next sentence, "Then I will consider whether anything beyond the motion itself is needed." He doesn't even suggest that he would even ask for your advice, or that he will consider what anyone else believes.

I'm not answering him. And count me out on any more work on that business. What he says is stupid, self-defeating, against the public interest, arrogant beyond description, and in its way as much of a boost to CIA evil as the ACLU's. They have ~~given~~ created a situation that only cowards would think twice about using to the maximum possible degree. And should have been done in some manner long ago.

I can understand that he might have some question about some of the content of the affidavits, which I did ~~do~~ in haste in the mistaken belief that you'd know what to do with it when a hot iron is put in your hands. And I can believe without difficulty that his questions might well have been correct and worthwhile. But what I cannot see is the arrant cowardice unintendedly confessed, the lack of the most elemental political understanding, the total lack of concern for the public good, or any excuse for this incredible selfishness or any appreciation of the harm that can come from it.

Santayana was wise when he said that those of us who do not learn from the past are doomed to relive it. As was Bobby Kennedy when he corrupted Dante to say that ~~there is~~ a special corner of hell is reserved for those who in time of moral crisis preserve their equanimity.

I'm not even going to check to see if I have the full CIA documents of which he enclosed only a few pages. But I see pertinence and usefulness in them in terms of this litigation and informing the judge. As well as of evasiveness that deceives and misleads in any "predecisional" use of the document withheld and then disclosed.

If Paul, who is bright and a good person, represents the best and the brightest for the future of the country, God help us!

You, too, will come out of this looking like a coward. I think you ~~ought~~ ought, in your own interest, have a better understanding before you file other FOIA suits for cowards or selfish people who neither think of nor care about the public good.

Sincerely,