

Dear Jim, 1996 and about it

1/23/78

This is a progress report to you the specifics of which please do not give to Lynne or Metcalfe, as I'll explain.

First the good news: if the situation enables it we'll have the best of colleagues, temporarily, for the immediate project, and perhaps even longer, on a long-term basis. Howard called last night. It was good to hear from him, with this and just to hear from him.

What you are not to tell the DJ is that if it had not been for this please I'd have had both a pleasure and a displeasure. I'd have finished my review of my notes on the FBI HQ Murkin files. I've only the Bulky on Murkin to go over. Not enough time before the a.m. TV news, to which I begin the day's exercycling. (Well over 20 miles yesterday, one of the other reasons I did not finish HQ Murkin. Three other calls interfered.)

I'll have the other HQ notes to go over then the letters I wrote to the FBI. While I'm finding exactly what I said I expected, that the notes were for your information only, with the ~~xxxx~~ rare exception of one for writing (in general, with this volume, writing notes were impractical), I think that if Schaffer really meant what he said I'll be giving him enough from these notes and my own review what I asked of him in writing immediately, that he relieve me of the burden of reviewing the worksheets. They are helpful, along the lines we both told them they would be.

In part I'm writing this because I don't know how much time we'll have Wednesday if I am able to get county old folks medical transportation, which I won't know until later in the day. In part not to forget some things.

Generating paper is a real problem. If I do it we have the problem of retrieval. If I do not we may well not be able to retrieve what I've spotted. There is enough in my scanty notes to reopen the Ray case. You have not commented on much of this and I suspect you have no way of retrieving any of it save by rereading all I've written you. So I am now making a specific request of you for 1996 - and for your obtaining your fees and at the best rate.

Start and arbitrary and capricious file. Do it now. I mean this very minute.

While Lil was making a working copy of the OPR stuff for me yesterday the machine began a malfunction I think is from the computer in it. It would not stop making multiple copies. So she had to stop. But occasionally something caught her eye. So I already have two illustrations for you from the OPR notes and I'm sure I'll have more. I'm also sure that if I had an assistant I'd come up with a large number. In this instance it is that the same review and appeals authority did not withhold from the OPR's notes what was withheld from the FBI files on which the notes were made. I also believe this will help with fee waiver in the OPR request.

The chief reason I do not want you to tell the DJ people that I have finished going over my HQ file notes is because they'll then pressure me to distate them. They have forced me to go this far, take this much time from other work, I want to finish it right, meaning as best I can under the bad circumstances and as completely as I can. I also do not want them to pressure me when I have to anticipate many more interruptions. For example, today if the condition of the lane permits the 16 cartons will come. If I have to handle them I'll have to rest between each trip down and up the cellar steps. Wednesday I have the Washington medical appointments. Thursday blood test if I don't also have to see the local doctor. I'll have to get prescription renewals. And I can neither predict nor do anything about the phone calls, some of which I'm glad to get. Like the one from Mike that told me the AP's wire had copy saying they released records on me. Another from which I may get all of UPI's wire copy on the second releases. So please just tell them that I have been back on it and told you I'm making good time but will be interrupted by the coming of those 16 cartons and two days of medical appointments this week.

When I can drive safely I'm also going to have shopping to do. Lil has not been to a store in a week. I've having slight nosebleeds in the a.m. They are stopping without problem, which in a way is not encouraging, so I'm also going to have to get a good humidifier. I'll then have to assemble it and all that goes with that. And I son't want to have to explain such things to the DJ people. I also want them not to know anything of what I've found until I give them all.

In turn this means getting the right kind of tape recorder for you so I can also have dependable means of making a dub of what I do.

I have not gotten close to clearing up the accumulation on my desk alone that began when I had to spend every minute I could on this. As an example, when I got back to this on Saturday I could not find my time records to post them. So I started new ones. So you can know how I've been doing it I'll save yesterday's. What I've been doing is writing down the time I start and the time I stop and at the end of the day totalling it and keeping a list of the totals. I have Lil run the first on her adding machine. And then I kept that only and made new notations of it. When I've been on the phone I've not counted it where I was not working when the phone ran or deducted it where I was, which I think happened twice yesterday, once a call of less than a minuet from a reporter who wanted to know if the boxes had come so he can take a picture. This, if forget above, will be another interruption I'd rather not have to take time to explain, the kind I can't always anticipate.

Orders still come in, if more slowly. Last night I made six packages. I actually made some while I was talking to Howard. This was when I'd stopped to listen to Liddy on Buckley. (Lil says worthless for my purposes but for Dave's I've sent him the tape.) She has been accumulating them for a couple of days since I've been on this. Fewer starts and stops. Otherwise they are handled daily.

In the last Sections and worksheets I also noted something else, which leads to a conclusion: Harp was brought in as a tough guy, despite his pleasant appearance. Toward the end, instead of doing as Green said, put more on, they actually took at least one off. When they removed Goble they did not replace him, unless there was a great time lag and Harp was that replacement. Suddenly Higgins also was gone and there was only Harp. What a difference in the exemptions claimed. And it was immediate. This will be in my notes. When I raised real hell and said they could stick their stipulations, there was a coinciding abrupt and major drop in the claims to any exemptions. With Harp there was an abrupt shift in the exemptions that were claimed. You'll get this, but it included an almost total abandonment of 7C and an escalation in 7D.

I did forget to continue keeping the list of missing attachments of which I'd made notes. I did not make notes in most cases.

On the first exercycling I heard that the news Montana Senator is Metcalfe. He is the judge who sat on the 75-2021 appeals panel.

I have to pace myself more on the exercycling, which takes more time. I found that there comes a point at which I develop discomforts under the clavicle and then remain tied and in need of air, so I'm gradually building up to learn where this point is and to keep at it to under that point. Yesterday I got all that mileage in by repeated starts and stops throughout the day.

Best,