

2/1/71

Dear Paul,

My purpose is not to needle or nag but to inform, for whatever informing can mean. I must be short because it is almost time to go for Li lil and I have beginning the days' work at 5 a.m. again in order to prepare the response you will ultimately see to the government notion in my CA 2569-70. Meanwhile, my old back trouble has been returning steadily, I presume because of the difference in position between using an upright typewriter at a regular desk and a portable on a table.

I've had separate phone conversations with Bob and Jim today. Bob has postponed decision of two large CDs (one I think is 355, some 900 pp of single-sentence comments re Ruby) until all other things are copied. They have two batches, the third is being made, and there will be a fourth.

From Jim I learned that he has scanned some \$ 900 pages. He confirms my immediate fear, saying that much of it was of such a character it should not have been released, under any circumstances.

Until I see it, I can't really have a valid opinion on what follows. I accept Jim's word on this. He is a lawyer. But I also think that we'll find as much as they dared release of what we'd indicated a disposition to push for. While they were denying me Ferris they were simultaneously declassifying what they denied. There is some prospect of the same thing with Brown, from what Jim indicated he read.

I hope I am right about the latter. I am not happy if I am as right as I think about the first point. Further, at the risk of sounding like an ego, I'd like to encourage your confidence on what one can and does learn from living for as many years as I have in that kind of an environment, many at an age beginning earlier and extending past yours, working in it. Among us there is but another equipped by experience to have this kind of instinctive judgement that could reasonably expected to be dependable, Sylvia. Nothing takes the place of years, the unfortunate thing being the concomitant, nothing recaptures them, either.

Hurriedly,