

9/7/71

Dear Sylvia,

Unlike our younger brethren in whose mouths the joys of youth are fresh and sweet-tasting and who are unaware of the urgent need one can have for a respite, I have not written you not to intrude upon your effort to relax. Having had no real vacation since before World War II, I am well aware of the need one can have. I have accumulated a few minor things, which are enclosed.

I write now for an updating and a request we know each other well enough for you to reject without ceremony, for I know your situation well enough.

In a month, with too many intrusions and interruptions, a month in which we also had much company on various subjects and just socially and in which my wife had a few problems that seem to have passed, I have completed the draft of the missing part, now to be the third, of POST MORTEM. With an optimism not befitting my having passed my 58th year, I think it can put us where we have not been, open to us what has been closed. It is, without any doubt, as definitive an answer as could be expected to those assorted whores, pimps, nincompoops and copouts who have been clammering for "new evidence". It does have that! a spades! Only HR has read it. JP has read the intro for all three parts. Where he was not inclined to agree with a few-very few-thing, from an unread but skimmed mailing r'e'd today, HR is coming around to my view on some. I'll get to that after this, because if I go into town I'll mail this and save a day. As I've made a few minor adds, I've been carboning HR. He has a few suggestions, one using one of my favorite phrases I'M ashamed of not exploiting myself, that I'll pick up. My wife has just begun the retyping. I have a slight hope of arranging a private printing. After my experience with FRAME-UP, it is less desirable than I would have considered it six months ago. But the prospects are not encouraging. It is but a chance. Further, on the chance of success in an appeal in a suit in which I am my own lawyer and of attention to the appeal Bud is handling on my spectre suit, I consider it necessary to have this ready. In a case.

I will now have to slash the first and now-dated part mercilessly, where I could use help. And I remember your comment on what was then called III and will not be II, that the indignation is sustained to the point where it dulls and loses its effectiveness. So, the request, if you are not already swamped, is for suggests and recommendations with these two parts. If you can mark up your copies (or I can supply them), I'll replace them. Esp. in the panel stuff may I be insensitive to my own probable excesses.

In the earlier parts, to prevent the problem that with Lil's limited time is a very real one, of retyping, what will be best is larger eliminations, not altering mere paragraphs except where urgent. I can then paste the existing masters up and I can do without sleep better than anyone, from the record. This I could complete the whole thing fastest.

I do hope to be able to include facsimiles of all the docs, esp. the "new evidence". And I do have "new" pictures that I can use without bad taste or irresponsibility. (There are many I have seen I can't use, but I prefer not to let anyone know of their existence for fear of misuse or out-of-context use, aside from the enormous cost they represent to me.) You will understand this all int ime.

Once I have the entire thing done, I will also seek to get it retyped double-spaced if the private printing is not possible. This would not require that my wife do it for the copy would be cleaner. I could then begin the dreary publisher rounds.

Hope there was some rejuvenation at Fire Island.

Best regards,

