

Dear Dick,

9/19/91

When you phoned to wish us a good year, you said something that stayed on my mind yesterday, and it was good for something like that to be there on a frustrating day. No harm from it but it did tire us both. Perhaps that commentary on the cost of medicine today and the problems that creates may be of interest.

There are two injections that can prevent prostate surgery, the second still experimental. When I read about the second I asked Dr. Bell at Johns Hopkins if, because of my medical problems that make even minor surgery a hazard, I would be a good person to be included in those tests, some of which are being done there. He arranged an appointment right then at there with one of the staff urologists and one who teaches it. He said that the one approved (of which my family doctor had never made any mention) would do just as well for me and he started the course of injections, which I think will have to be every month, right then. Hopkins had had to discontinue accepting insurance as payment but he made an exception of me. (Somehow he knew about me and my work and writing before he saw me and it was not from Dr. Bell's phone call, which he made in my presence.) Yesterday was my regular monthly trip there for it. Only one of the staff had forgotten to phone to tell me not to come because they for some unexplained reason had not been able to replenish their supply. He asked when I'd be there again, I told him the 30th., he said that would be OK on the schedule and he told me to phone next week to be certain they have it. In the event they do not he gave me a prescription so I could check the local pharmacies and be able to bring it if they did not. I went to three today. The cheapest is \$417, the most expensive \$447, each with a 10% senior citizen discount. For the makings of a single injection! I can see why there are insurance problems! But the bills submitted for me are being paid. Only they won't be unless I have it done at a hospital. Medicare won't and the others won't pay their share unless Medicare does. Common as prostate problems are, what a situation!

What you said that meant much to me is that what was new to you in the copies of the reminiscences I've sent you does not surprise you because it is what you would have expected. More or less those words.

As I think I told you, I'd not been keeping copies until my friend Joe Labovsky wanted me to do such a book. Then I started keeping copies. But it was not until later that I realized there could be another use, another value, not just bringing some of the past back, to those who lived through those years and those not yet born or adult. It is in this sense that I value the opinion you offered.

I don't go around talking about it and I've not even hinted at it in any book but the fact is that with both the JFK and King assassinations it is I who brought to light just about all the fact, to the degree I could published it, and fought the basic FOIA lawsuits to end the suppressions. And I did the investigations for the Ray habeas corpus and the evidentiary hearing.

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I have also made arrangements for all this work to be freely available in the future, with no quid pro quo. I did not even ask that the archive be named for me, although I believe that is going to be done. Nor did I ask for any honorary degree. Nothing. Which may strike others in the future as at least odd.

Not only have I never promoted myself, I've been the target of accomplished slanderers, libellers and self-seekers, including some literary thieves.

So, with so little known about me, what is there for scholars of the future to go on in any evaluation of me? (My realization of this got me to start, belatedly, a separate file of favorable comments I get. Hundreds if not thousands are scattered by letter of the alphabet.)

So, these as of now two ^{full} stationery boxes of the odds and ends that came to mind ~~are~~ ^{some of which} what other than what those who survive can recall and say, ~~much of what~~ might in the future be useful in knowing more about me, what I did, how and when I did it, what I experienced, what I'd learned and done earlier that made it possible, things like these.

What you told me that I'm glad to know is that from what you've read it is natural and faithful to what you know about me. That I'm very glad to know.

Scattered in what I've done are bits of accounts of my two most serious fights, when the Dies committee framed me and sought to get me indicted (I got their agent indicted and took the grand jury away from the Assistant US Attorney) and when I was caught up in a pogrom in the State Department. I organized and led the fight, got us great lawyers, and State ~~was~~ apologized, rehired us and by prior agreement we resigned. I also got gypped out of my back pay. ^{That} meant I had to cash in my government retirement, and could I use that now!!

Maybe some day I'll try to write a coherent account of each. For now, our lawyers were the firm then known as Arnold, Fortas & Porter, no fee. I'd known Thurman Arnold when he headed DJ anti-trust and I worked with them ^{on Nazi cartels,} taking them all I got. I'd known Paul Porter when he left the government and was in ^{private} practise. I'd ^{of} not known Fortas, but had worked with his wife who was with the National Labor Relations Board and thus in association with the Senate committee for which I worked. (Card tigger)

I think that what they succeeded in doing for us had never been accomplished before and I have no recollection of hearing of it being done later. State ate crow.

This was buried in a stack on my desk. (10/13) I was there on the 30th and did get the injection. I also had a successful laser job done on my better eye and now can read as well as + did two years ago and have less headlight glare problem. I go back again on the 4th.

After I speak to the local cardiologist and get the results of the third day of wearing a Holter heart monitor I may be writing more about this to friends but as of now the results of the first two days as interpreted by the cardiologist when he read the computer printout is that there is nothing unusual.

As the same time he directed that I observe the limitations on any exertion and from what he seemed to be saying this is for me forever.

For her Lil is fine, moving around as well as before she had all that trouble several months ago.