

1/20/70

Dear Edg

Your large package of 1/15 on your reformulation and the fascinating letter of the same day, on the army, came on two different days, the larger one "onday, while I was away, in the lawyer's phrase, having a fool for a client, the army one yesterday. I picked up my mail at the P.O. en route to DC and read it there, by coincidence, in the office of a lawyer with a very active interest in this matter, I took the liberty of showing it to him in confidence. he would like to see the file when it arrives. Have I your permission?

On the way home I stopped off at NBC, which has a few of my pages of such material (mine are FBI reports and I'll be giving him a bit more now that I know he is interested). Without having you advance permission, I felt that to a newsman I'd better ask first, so I do. The bureau chief there appears to have had something to do with the First Tuesday show. In any event, his interest lingers. I had something else I figured would interest him, and it did, so I'll be stopping back next time I'm in DC, which probably will not be until after you've had time to let me know if I can show him what you are sending and this letter.

No matter what the truth is about Dick's thing, it is significant. Any interpretation that suggested itself when I read it has to be. I've not had a chance to look at it since I read it yesterday morning. I'm really on a treadmill now, for the government has just switched tactics on a suit I've filed where I'm pro se, and they dumped a clever, long, detailed and although utterly false, superficially persuasive motion on me. Because I was out of town (it seems like they have either good information or unerring instincts), six of the 10 days allowed for response passed before I could even glance at it. Responding properly will be a considerable undertaking. I began by seeking an extension of time. Now I've got the large job of first carefully analyzing the shit and then a larger one of combing my files, filling in the things they omitted in seeming direct quotation, getting the truth about each of the many things involved, and then writing it up in as close to legal form as I can without, at the same time, further turning off a liberal judge who has a thing on Warren.

So, with no writing at all, I've a big rush job right ahead. I'll try and read your "rule 62" mailing as soon as I can. Here you have an assist from bursitis, which limits the uninterrupted time I can spend at the mill. If the mail is light today or doesn't have things that require immediate response, it may be today. In any event, as soon as possible (it is not yet daylight, city slicker).

Without having read the contents, any comment may be irrelevant. But when I saw "Tax those who don't vote", I shivered. Unless, of course, you mean if they have the option of a negative vote, the idea I like. Sure as hell you wouldn't want to tax somebody who refused to chose between a Nixon and an Agnew. Or an Nixon and a HHH, whose is no more than a smooth N making sweet sounds, if you really know his record (his first Senatorial success was a concentration-camp bill, and it passed!)

Walter is a bit put out, but not personally and not for anything more than your failure to turn the book in. I think he feels much as I do, so you know if this is the case, I also agree with him. Perfection, even completeness, and topical non-fiction are mutually exclusive. I could paraphrase Che, but need I (about the duty of a writer). You do not say why you wrote him, but if I get a chance to phone him, I'll see if I can find out and get whatever licks in seem to be those you might have had in mind.

I'd like to see that thing of Dick's very much, for knowledge, for its possible relevance to a book I'd researched and laid aside and for its immediate possibilities. Here if I can have it the restrictions should be explicit, for the two things that come to mind immediately are this lawyer and the NBC DC bureau chief, who has a lingering interest in the Army thing. Evrin's has been cooled and whatever he soon does will be slight, probably repetitious. I know from one who knows him.

Dick seems to have had a thing about me germinated by that whore Lane, for whom Dick persists in having a high regard. I met Dick through a mutual friend. He said he'd get the book that is about to come out (abbreviated) published. I drove to DC to meet him when I was sick (he didn't know it) and not supposed to be driving. I stayed until 3 a.m., fascinated by the dialogue on so many different subjects. He is sui generis! He wanted me to grab a plane the next am. and go to NYC with him where, he assured me, he'd get the thing published. I couldn't, and I knew this would never happen. But that is how I met Walter, for Walter phoned me and was honest from the first. Having been down Mark Jaffe's road, I knew that Walter couldn't swing it if he tried. Dick was, really, great. He did more. He arranged for his lecture bureau to want me. I flew to Boston, got a great reception, and then, suddenly, it started cooling. It seems that this is also Lane's bureau (perhaps also arranged by Dick). Suddenly, when I kept pushing, there came the second-hand and roundabout response that this conflicted with their Lane deal. Crap. They also booked Shaw. And Lane has never had any new material, nothing on King/Ray at all. I feel that Lane reached Dick somehow, because I wrote Dick twice about the kinds of things on which you'd think he would respond immediately and never got any answer. You may recall I was onto Groth long ago, and there is the remote chance that had Dick done what I asked and had we arranged a little thing over this, those murders would not have been committed. Pretty certainly not by Groth, anyway. Perhaps, now, his conscience may prick a little. Perhaps he has forgotten it, or paid so little attention to begin with that he didn't put the things together.

Anyway, I remain with a liking for and a high regard for Dick, a really decent, principled man. I would do nothing to embarrass him, and I will be hurt when, as is inevitable, he learns what kind of bastard Lane really is. However, my asking Dick for this is a futility. Walter, by the way, also tried to caution him about Lane. But Lane is a salesman like few can be, and Dick is hooked on his running-mate.

Meanwhile, what if NBC did go for this? With what they did on that First Tuesday show, nothing else that can be within possibility can touch it.

Gotta get my wife up. This is the one time of the year we have any fixed income. She is a tax consultant until 4/15, so for the colder months, we do not go into debt further for food and heat, but it is hard on her and wastes time for me taking her there and fetching her, and interrupts just when everything is flowing....

I'll go over this as soon as possible.

Good luck, and thanks.