

8/29/72 Howard, I've got 15 minutes before I wake Lil up with her mate. That is too little time for anything but a snatch of reading, so, ahem, let me attempt to make you the beneficiary of what I began doing while having. You have heard me speak of intellectual judo and know what I mean. Here let us take the tragedy of Cyril and see what we can do with it that is constructive. What we may be able to do with the end product is something else. But there are possibilities. Not having seen Graham's piece I am handicapped. I heard it once. But it holds some values for us, as it was very bad for us. The values are quite minor unless we can exploit them. I wish I had thought of this when I got in bed 1 a.m. and the first time since November, when I was in Dallas and heard we had 14 inches of snow here and saw Lil isolated, had trouble falling asleep. Because of your age I think this will be a particularly good exercise for you, so when you have the time, take this as a challenge and see what you can wring from it. I'll give you two clues: some of my letters of which you have copies (and here in a couple of areas I think I was foresighted, as only the future can tell—and the recent one to Kelley which should tell you what things I saw) and one word: Transfer. Birdog it. Ask if the reporting is accurate, if accurate complete; is it partly true—partly false and if so what does either mean, things like that.

Don't be discouraged, although there is much about which to be. Or bitter. I had two chances that became invitations to clobber Cyril yesterday and refused both. In fact, refused to discuss that thing at all except entirely off the record, and then did, in one case at length, in the other just long enough to discourage it.

Take the philosophy I do from a general of whose name I'm not certain (Fitch?) at a great, turning-point battle in World War II (The Marne): My left is turned, my right is in retreat, my center has been defeated. Good! I attack! And he did. And he won. It can happen. Maybe not as often as we'd like, but it can and it does and the alternative is depression, which is crippling, self-castration of the mind and capability. Although I am fairly confident you will understand I am speaking of more than this one thing I make it specific: consider this as a general approach in life when there are problems: confront them as rapidly and as well as you can and seek in the trouble the means of emerging from it. Now for the TV News (?) and coffee. Best, HW