

11/6/71

Dear Mary,

Perhaps you have accumulated sufficient years so that you can look back and recall Dorothy Parker (I never hear of any one reading or quoting her). One of her many great lines, all short, as I remember them, and so expressive, comes to mind on reading your letter of the 3rd, especially in the context of my recent experiences: "If all the girls at the Yale Junior prom were laid end to end I would be a bit surprised." I have come to feel there is this unanimity among the rich. Arch is not unique in being a miser, for many millionaires are, but I have yet to meet the first rich man who didn't think everybody was out to separate him from his pelf. Frequent, they think dishonestly.

After your phone call I was encouraged. But after the recent disappointment, this one is not sharp. I suppose I wouldn't have believed it, and I certainly didn't expect it, except that you seemed so certain. And a couple of things I am certain I can do in Dallas were very much on my mind. You know there is nobody I sought to interview there who refused me, only about two declined to be taped. I found those allegedly no longer there, Henry Wade went to his office early to see me, Dean Storey held up a board meeting for a long time (I can't find my reference to his O.S.S. experience—do you have anything on that?), and my interview with Perry was rewarding. I have come, in my work, to where I want to talk to a couple of others. I think, with what I now know, they will tell me, on the record, what I want to be able to play back to a couple of people. I'd also add it to POST MORTEM.

Perhaps I feel it less because there is so much I should be doing simultaneously, because there is so much I could do if I were not so firmly attached to home with a chain of missing dollars.

Anyway, our situation is so very bad it will have to be more than a plane ticket. I'll have to have all my expenses paid. I tell you this in the remote chance he feels a pang or changes his mind. Every time I've left here at the request of a committee or a critic or JG or anybody interested in the case, and all are so honorable (and my), I have been stuck. It now totals several thousand dollars I not only need urgently but also pay and have been paying interest on. And I also mean in advance. It isn't going to happen, but if it does, you'll know. You know, even after he got all that money back from the Maryland bonding case Jim didn't think to repay me and never responded when I asked him to.

Thanks for sending the one thing directly to Bill. I'll be there Monday. The note on the one you didn't send in there because I loaned it to anybody I didn't want to talk. I'll take it with me. Thanks on the phone book. I have a 1963 one from the Castorrs...Great on Buck...I expect to be going to D.C. and it would have been good to have been able to discuss a few hairy items with him first, rather than play by ear...Jim has the copy of the list. I've not been in D.C. or was once and neither remembered it. He told me you left it with him for me once when we spoke by phone...nobody could have seen the autopsy film on the 29th. That is the day applications could first be made, unless somebody got away with a shortcut. I am now inclined to think nobody will. I hope I am right, for it could be a disaster.

Had was at the Princeton meeting. We spoke briefly by phone. I gather from him that what the papers here indicate, it was kind of a bust, is his view, too. From the list of those there, there was a mixture of phoney-liberal copouts and those who haven't had anything new to say on the FBI since they published before their beards greyed. How could this make headlines unfriendly to Hoover? I would like to see some of the texts. Esp. of the informants, if you ever see them. They got no press here, and I suspect their stories were far out to most.

Most of what is wrong with Ed is how we have to live. But I'm glad Buck is getting along so well. Thanks and out best,