

Rothstein, JW, HR, PB, JP, GRS

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

July 13, 1971

To: Files, HW, JNS
Re: Anonymous note to Rothstein

This is certainly the weirdest thing I have seen all day. These things look to me like the clues from the elaborate cross word puzzles (acrostics?) one finds in (I think) the NYTimes on Sunday, the Nation, etc. I doubt if there are many people (let alone many nuts) who can come up with lines as dense with double meanings as this. (E.g., "fission chip log-ic billingsgate.") So, if I were the SS and wanted to track this down, I would first ask the crossword puzzle people at a few of these magazines if these particular clues had been published lately.

It may be that someone picked that part of it up and was playing a joke on nobody in particular. But on the other hand, whoever did this was pretty good at this kind of word play himself, and evidently went to some trouble to get it mailed at the right place.

HW suggests that the recipient was selected because his address is "Dead Run Drive." I expect it may rather have been because he fits in well in a long word-play on "stone" words. Some, but not all, of this, was mentioned by HW:

I.F. Stone (with both "if" and "stones" in 19 Luke 40) ---
Rockville, Md. --- J.M. Rothstein --- Sen. Gravel --- (and, possibly) translate --- Earl George Sande.

It is possible that HW is in this by accident. "Can Mr. Weisberg translate" may have been a clue in a puzzle, perhaps indicating a translation of "weiss berg", or it may be a (sloppy) use of "berg" as somehow linked with all those "stone" words.