

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 crossword 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 if 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. Weissberg 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.

Incidentally, I doubt that HW's suspect would do something like this without the elementary precaution of using another typewriter. What about the people HW met in N.C. with a background of mental problems?

Another possibility: all this, including what I am now typing, HW's and the SS's reaction to the note, etc., are parts of a work of art. Recently a bunch here sent out bills for \$76.50 to several thousand S.F. families, selected at random, with the phone numbers of various papers and TV stations to show the media what would happen when the people rise up, or something like that. They have caught hell for mail fraud, conspiracy, etc., but they say it is all a work of art. Strange things have happened before. HW's suspect might find this sort of thing appealing, I confess.

Some translation:

"Constable ... asks ... Lee in Irving's bedroom?" Obviously a reference to Garrison's probe, with the gay angle. "Constable ... Barnstable" may just be for rhyme. B. is a town in Mass., also in England; I know of nothing special about it either. "Barnstable ... horse": locking the barn door too late? "magister (master) of horse (herd)": accusing JG of links to Mafia drug traffic?? George Sand: 19 century female French writer. Vigoro de lilacs: may be just a sound-pun on green grow the lilacs. McGovern may be named just for sound effects.

Far out stuff! I wouldn't worry about it.