

11/29/76

Dear Matt,

Welcome to the exclusive Penn/ Jones List of Top Federal Agents.

He is now turning out a newsletter to which I do not subscribe.

I've been sent a copy of the current issue. The part about you, the best and thus the first, is enclosed.

Penn's is a convenient memory. It does not include what it does not want. About Tom, too.

He endorsed Tom to me by phone 1/1/67, leading to my making arrangements for Tom in Washington and staying away from the Archives while he was there not to complicate life for him and Garrison.

Not until I developed my own doubts and checked did I learn - not from Penn but from L.A. - that from their first association Tom was a fig.

Sorry you have not seen fit to respond to my inquiry about the balance of your Memphis notes, but that is your affair. I'm sure you have been out of it so I caution you very strongly against having anything to do with those who exploited Garrison in the past or today represent the new Abuse Committee. To date it has been little more than an adjunct of the DJ.

The commercializers and the nuts, pre-eminently Lane, have already begun a disinformation operation that to date has misled the committee. It is quite willing to be misled. The chief counsel is exactly what the Phila. ACLU said, totally unconcerned about legal rights. The two top Members are in association with nuts only. Nobody's word there is worth anything, this from personal experience.

The way they are going this will be a perpetual trauma.

All the top lawyers are prosecutors, the worst from the DJ.

Hope you are all well and happy. Having to keep my legs horizontal when I'm not walking has ceased being a big deal if it has not improved my typing. I remain active despite the ~~skin~~ acute thrombophlebitis. Started this a.m. as you once knew, 4:45 a.m. With snow I rode the exercycle at 7:30 for more than 20 minutes, set for strain resistance. I walk as much as I can. Last week for the first time in more than a year some wood-cutting, limited to machete and carrying, not ax or chainsaw. I have to be careful about any injury, even bruising. In work for several years, when it became apparent that those who do no work and thus have plenty of time to mislead that of others cannot be competed with I switched my focus to the courts. I have three current FOIA cases, all working out well. In one I've forced the FBI to agree to give me the entire King file. They've begun and admit it will run 16,000 pages. Actually there is much more. I've begun the deposit of my papers in a university archives. (I'm pushing 64.) Ten days ago I won in the courts the right to compel the CIA to respond to interrogatories in a suit in which it is not the respondent. So, to the degree I can influence it my work continues to be productive. With the redirection of the new committee the shift to the court, which preceded the Schweiker abortion, seems like the right decision. It also looks promising. I'm getting to take first-person testimony from FBI people, including four agents who took early retirement in an effort to avoid it.

Best to you all,