

11/27/70

Dear Matt,

Your welcome card of the 20th got here faster, than some of my domestic mail, if and much faster than some of what I send reaches others. The published version of the condensed SOUP (Now FRAMEUP), in which you emerge somewhat hostile, as you'll learn on your return, got five letters at once. I mailed them over a 10-day period. He's 200 miles away. It has happened before... Sorry I didn't take a copy of your Memphis notes, for those I did take were very good and confirmed by other sources. I did not expect you to find my comments about Jim acceptable. But let us see what you think when you get back. I've had experiences you didn't, saw what you couldn't, know what you do not. Too bad, because he is one of the most charming and very brightest. He is also sick... Suppose you had left when I saw notice of Carol's marriage... I hope you are keeping notes of your thoughts and observations as well as your experiences, even though you once said you find writing painful. In your comment, "...very interesting and illuminating to get out of the U.S. for a while and look at it from the distance" you have a potential title, "From the Distance". If you do, remember the bobby Burns bit, "as others see us".

If you do not have the pictures, I'll not try Black Star again. Off and on for a long period of time I've been trying to get a single 8x10 taken by Gene Danish (?). I had contacts, had the numbers, got a runaround and two others got like treatment. It just isn't worth the time when there is not enough time for what can yield constructive results... I'm preparing suits vs the government, won the first, have several drafted. The next one to be revised and filed will deal with N.O. suppression, where there is no help, not even response, from those I'll be diapering - and do they need it! (You needn't bother to record the understood disagreement). Whether or not these suits succeed, as I think they will in the absence of corruption, they will make the as yet unmade court record. Right now I'm trying to get a federal judge to cite Justice for contempt and perjury... Jim is hassling the blacks, with such charges as verbal crimes, "criminal anarchy" (consisting of organizing), while dropping the case vs Layton Martens. I think it likely others will be dropped, for they'd planned all of them to be over by now. I still get the N.O. papers. I'd not know otherwise. And that bum tried to get me to arrange for him to cop a plea!... Jim's book is out, but I can't afford it. I'm sure I'd enjoy the writing (he's a great writer), but with the certainty the rest will be unoriginal or crap, I can't afford it. If it has gotten a single review, I've not heard of it. From those few who have read it from whom I've heard, including those predisposed toward him, no praise... Jane Fonda just got 14 blacks arrested in N.O. by renting four cars for them to use in leaving. There was no better way to finger them for Jim and the cops. I don't think they got five blacks away before they were caught. (N.O. does need a good diaper service!) But Jane (who has a movie or two going around) got a great press, and Giarrusso's sincere thanks. (Mark Lane has been her companion rather steadily.) But maybe those with more and better info are posting you on what is going on in N.O., where they do not fear offending you. Jim, by the way, asked FBI help in getting the "criminal anarchists". And the NOLAC lawyers got in trouble for defending clients against Jim. Newest development is the firing of the OEO legal tap men in DC over it. The N.O. papers have yet to mention it, but Ben Toledano swung that. (You'll be happier with Reagan on your return, believe me.) Toledano connects with the most extreme of the extreme right, too... But enough of this depressing stuff. If anything can depress you with all that beauty (and your own beautiful people) around you. We've just had the first taste of winter, with unseasonably-warm weather until now. Got above freezing today for the first time in a week. But no snow yet. I've just laid in the winter's supply of corn for the many fowl who live with us regularly as they migrate. We have the (non-migratory) quail so tame they come to the house to be fed, the mallards insist on being fed on the kitchen step and will not eat elsewhere. Pheasants we turned out two years ago have reproduced and come to within 20 ft of the house... All kinds of birds, too. Sometimes the rabbits have to be chased so I can drive up my lane without hurting them. They regard it as theirs and they just do not run. They have an unerring instinct that tells them when hunting season is about to open. We don't see them for a while then. Which is also now... Gary just took on his profession to support a man salted away in a fruit farm for 20 years, wrongly. His profession? His hospital! Still good people left, if not as many - or too many... Had a note from Pilger about 19 months ago saying he'd see me soon, but he hasn't. I had a good British story for him, but I'll save it

