

5/11/68

Dear Matt,

Work essential to the trip is stacked so high I may not complete all of it before I leave. If I do not bring copies all the data on the NSRP, remind me and I'll mail it after my return. I will have a few pictures you may find interesting.

However, I take it you may not be there if you have joined the march and stay through it. That may be complicating in another way that I'll explain in more detail in person.

Nor was my sole purpose to dodge Bringuier. That I want to do for only a brief period. I very much want to sue him. For this I need a lawyer, and I have no funds. I do not know whether, if we win, as I think undoubted, there will be enough to repay the lawyer. If Jeanine, who I presume will open this in your absence, knows any to whom I might talk, I'd like to know.

It is fortunate you cannot "entertain", for then I'd have to be "entertained", which would frustrate the purpose of my trip. You have an idea how I work. But your words take me back to my youth, when I had a small apartment near the Capitol and ran an overcrowded hotel, putting up a variety of friends and strangers ranging from chorus girls to Congressman, one of whom lived regularly with me.

One thing has from the first interested me: do you have any reason for believing there might be official involvement, say of the CIA. I have informal information I cannot confirm that Ray is in Brazil, having flown there immediately and having been paid en route, and that the FBI has gotten the CIA in on it. That, I fear, would guarantee the result.

Aside from motivating and mobilizing Negroes, I am inclined to not favor an all-Negro Committee of Inquiry. King was not only a Negro. He spoke not only for Negroes. He was a leader of not only Negroes. The loss is not only that of black people. And the responsibility certainly is not. To exclude whites from an effort to search for the cause and his killer is to deny them the right of seeking absolution, the right of making a meaningful gesture of solidarity and whites can make possible what the Negroes cannot. I fear, above all, the involvement of the professional Negroes like the Howards and Comaxes, and what a tragedy that would be. By now you know their doctrine. Have you not seen it on the Kennedy assassination and explanation? Measuring their interest, however, is another and essential matter.

Perhaps it is too early to talk of publication, but I think not. I think it is too early to plan all the forms of publication. For one thing, all your work should be with an eye on ultimate publication. You must find the time to keep adequate records, for you will find, as time goes on, that memory fails. Easy as Vince also is, if his notes are abbreviated, try and get him to type them up in as full a form as he can. Better, although ultimately it takes more time, do what you did with me and have backup tapes stacked around. You can use for me this all the time. I have one machine near the phone at home and carry another with me whenever I am in D.C. Use even Jeanine for this, at home. I think you will find that your best protection, your best chance for survival, is to have so much accumulated and to the knowledge of those who might want harm to come to you that they dare not risk that harm for fear of the attention it would earn to what you have, for which you have not gotten attention and might not be able to. Be as public about it as you can. That also is a measure of protection to those to whom you speak.

My tentative plan is to arrive about 5:12 and stay for up to but, probably less than two weeks. Part of this time, if I can swing it, I should be in a motel. Solvency is a problem I am familiar with.

L. J.