

5/15/70

Dear Ron,

Thanks for your note of the 7th, which reached me today. If you do anything, you know it will please me as it will surprise me. Our experience of the past year is what I first predicted to you. While a new small publisher is coming here Monday, I permit myself no optimism.

However, I've had a proposal from a major publisher to do a book on what I've done, which I've not accepted. Sensational in style, too. The fact of my work he cannot touch (but would like to). Only what will do no good and make me a nice, fresh cereal-box hero.

You may recall I told you the only way this kind of stuff can get printed is the way I had done it in the past.

To bring you up to date:

After a year of work, beginning with the lawyer's laughing agreement, I have provided Ray with his newest lawyer-mine. Then, with less than 24-hours notice, I supplied the basis and I suspect all the evidence for the new effort to get a trial. This is the first one to get decent and spacious attention in so anti- an organ as the Washington Post. Without it passing through censorship, Ray read COUP II and asked for permission to use it in his defense. I've not seen the new brief, but I believe all of it is from COUP II. After a year, I finally got the suppressed Ray evidence from DJ. Finished examining it today. There is no change required in COUP II, no additions, save discussion of more official evil, and the only thing from these papers will go in the too-large appendix. With no false modesty I tell you I had it all and all right. It is exculpatory. To do this I had to file and win a precedent "Freedom of Information" law suit against Justice. In Rusk's phrase, "We were eyeball to eyeball, and they blinked". They delayed to the last minute then capitulated rather than go to trial. Were it not for the combination of competent crooks and incompetence non-crooks, between whom most legal remedies were exhausted, there'd be no doubt of a trial. I expect to accomplish this additional impossible, get a trial...So, I have learned what makes a book unpublishable, what it takes to prevent any private interests in this ~~xxxx~~ Conggonde world: Do the impossible routinely.

I take comfort from the fact that at 57 I can still learn-and do.

There is no doubt in my mind that with any interest at all, while doing all I've been doing, I could have blown the Featherstone case apart publicly and legally before the Brown hearing, and I let it be known ~~xxx~~ in the right places. What better reasons for the brotherly brothers to be without interest?

Having won the precedent case without trial, I've laid writing aside and am about to file two more. You know about the ways of skinning cats. I'm weary, so worn, so very broke, and a little lonely. But mark my word: I'm going to do it. And when I do, everyone will want me to do a book on geese, for am I not an expert on waterfowl? 'Deed I am! Even the "Today" show would have used me on that when WHITWASH was hot.

Who knows? Maybe you'll see me on CBS soon-as an expert on Mitchell.

With the title twice stolen, I'm retitling the book COUP: BY ASSASSINATION. I've designed a cover of four superimposed faces: JFK, King, RFK and the fourth in hollow outline with a ? in it.

Best to dear Billie, Sincerely,



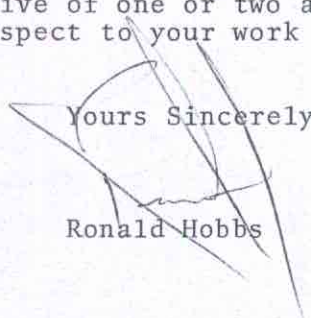
May 7, 1970

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Route 8  
Fredrick, Md.

Dear Harold,

I have received your letters and while I have been unable to develop interest in your work and notions, I do want you to understand that I support your initial precepts. At this time, I can only conceive of one or two additional areas we might exploit with respect to your work and I will endeavor to do my best.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Ronald Hobbs

RH:sq