

We seem to be snowed in this morning. It is too early to see clearly enough, but it looks as though we are paying one of the prices of enjoying those beautiful pines. If it snows and there is any strong wind at all, they make the snow drift in the lane. For most people it is no really great problem. They call for a backhoe and as soon as the operator can get there, the snow is moved. Twenty-five bucks and they are out. But most people can pay and do not have 500 feet of lane to be cleared. Last time it was 8 days.

We've got enough food, etc., if we are snowed in. My only concern is Lil's uneasiness if she can't get to her office. I anticipate it; she didn't indicate it last night when we went to bed.

The real reason I'm writing is because of a change in my writing schedule. It means I should read the Szulc book as soon as possible. Because it has been reviewed in Publishers' Weekly I know it is available if not on sale yet. It is scheduled for next month, so it may already be in distribution.

You said you can get some kind of discount. That also is helpful. However, more important now is just being able to read it, so I'd appreciate it if you could get a copy and get it in the mail as soon as possible. I'll repay you.

Yesterday I started writing the part of the book for which I'll need it. This means that I'll have to do some rewriting no matter how fast I get it.

I should have anticipated the possibility and accepted your suggestion when you made it, but then all I could think of is not being able to afford to buy any book.

Then I was writing as I saw the proper organization and as the writing would help my thinking. However, there is the possibility of other needs and to be able to do what would be necessary in the event this comes to something, I decided to shift the order of work. Separate from the writing needs what I may see in the Szulc book can be helpful in this matter. I'll explain it when we are together again. If something does come of it you'll know anyway.

Of course I don't know if there will be mail delivery and collection today. What I generally do in this kind of weather is put my boots on and trudge out to the mailbox, leaving in it what I want picked up if the routeman comes. I hope the drifts are not too deep for that!

You'll be able to tell by the postmark.

Because you have made no mention of it I assume you have seen no promotional material on Szulc. As you know, reading two of his books supports my hunch that he served more than traditional journalistic interest in them. From their titles, his other books can serve this same other interest. Compulsive Spy certainly was, as his NYTimes piece did. His Who's Who biography is provocative when I compare it with what he has written that is of interest.

And Andy St. George, perhaps not the most dependable source, says he was fired over some Watergate reporting, that he did not retire. What tends to make this credible is that some of his early WG stories made me suspicious.

Reminds me. If you have Contemporary Authors in your office library I would appreciate a xerox of his biography.

Thanks for everything.

Our best,