

5/30/70

Dear Art,

When we spoke earlier yesterday I asked for any Skolnick tapes you have, having only the transcript of the single interview. You said we'd talk about it when you phoned back.

You didn't.

If this in any way embarrasses you, forget it. If it does not, I would like them, and as soon as possible, for I will soon be even more deeply pre-occupied, having to spend much time on something new. Aside from as a record and the use I plan, I would like them also for an historical record of one of the more bizarre things.

I feel sorry for him, despite the rotten thing he did to me personally and the hazard he still presents to us. He is a man sadly abused by nature, a paraplegic eaten with a natural drive to overcome this liability by being something, and for him being something consists in getting publicity. This is the air he breathes, the means by which he survives, and he cares little how he gets it.

You have heard little of me for the past year and a half chiefly because our credibility has been ruined by well-meaning egos willing to say whatever made sensation and unconcerned about their accuracy. Those who are this way are never really hurt by what they do for several reasons. This is a side thing for those this way, and when they get theirs, they go back to other things. They are all big egos, and once their egos are satisfied, the rest makes no difference.

Skolnick has a defense mechanism common to the lot. Every time he gets clobbered, he tells himself his is and those who will listen to him usually believe he is the victim of some big ogre out to hurt decent people, etc. He portrays himself as and I suppose really believes he is a martyr. So, he can't lose-only we can. He knows nothing about the assassinations, has done no work in them, is entirely unfamiliar with the literature and is incapable of a straight answer on anything, as auditioning your own material has to tell you.

After N.O.-before the end, as you know - I started rethinking the whole business and came to conclusions already proven viable. We have to change our theater and approach. At the moment, our best chances are in court. I have done an enormous amount of work to get where we can no longer go there. This first victory is only a beginning. I will not have this jeopardized or ruined by the Skolnicks.

I hear you have hit the underground tankard. Hope it is fun and results in no hurt. However, you should know that Big Brother has great interest in such performances. I have quite a stack of carbons-not xeroxes, carbons - made of me and others for him. He is not in the business of merely paying good money for such tidbits just to stuff file cabinets. If you'd like me to check what you do for areas of tenderness, to see if there are ways by which those with the intent and desire might hurt you, tape it one time and let me hear it. Meanwhile, let me caution you: you live in what is also out nut country, with some of the most intelligent and most persuasive the very nuttiest - and so sincere, too.

Good luck,