

4/18/71

Dear Howard,

Relet 14 and enclosures, thanks for the letter to the Times. They did list book, I've been told. If they so reply, why not ask them why a responsible book evaluating the publicly-used and the suppressed evidence of a case of such magnitude and consequences, the only such book, has not been reviewed?

Envelope: the descriptions sounds like an not very professional intrusion into the sanctity of the mail, but the letter may very well have been damaged here. I recall clearly that one copy was, and that may easily have been the one I sent you. Especially if I sent it some time ~~after~~ after the date, for I also recall it standing atop a file cabinet for some time. However, reprehensible and anti-democratic as such police-state methods and practises are, and much as you should never come to accept them, I do encourage you not to become too deeply aroused emotionally and too angry, for this can lead to a diminution of your acuteness in work, etc. Or, don't let it get ya.

I now have a copy of the "newsletter" I wanted. The Bulletin people are both weird and understandable, the latter because you should understand that, no matter how poorly they put it, they want to and they have a moral obligation to protect and hide their source, in this case either a criminal or an associate of a criminal, for much as we might approve the purposes and consequences of the raid on the Media office, under the law it was both a breaking and an entering and a theft of public property. Which makes their desire to exercise the traditional responsibilities of the press in such matters more commendable.

And I thank you for your fine and flattering contrast with others of 98. I could only wish that, especially today, after a 23-hour day yesterday, I did not feel much older. Until the body starts exercising its prerogatives, I suppose age is a matter of the mind.

You have not as yet said anything about needing a copy of FRANK-UP. I have had to establish a policy of not giving any, for how would I make distinctions, and can I possibly afford to give them to all when I have to buy them. However, I can save you the bookstore's profit. They cost me about \$6.50.

There was a rather pleasant party at Bud's last night, apparently one of his contributions to a meeting of his (excuse the expression) committee. Some of its members or board were there, and others, including some very nice people. We were invited, and it was good to see some again. It gave me a chance to lean briefly but more pointedly and heavily than before of Sprague, and I hope he will henceforth exercise more restraint than that of which he has thus far been capable. The one I wanted most to see, one Bud expected, and one he wanted to have me meet, Aubrey Mayhew, did not show.

Troubles of a most serious (nonfeasance) nature with publishers have come up, but there is no need to trouble you with all of them. I may, occasionally, send copies. It boils down to they had not have sold out, but the distinction is irrelevant. They do nothing, respond to nothing, and as yet I do not have my "advance". I think that as I can I'll return to writing AGENT OSWALD and would appreciate your noting anything you consider might be relevant.

Thanks and best,

4/14/71

Dear Harold,

Today I received your recent bulky mailing. I've not the time now to respond, but there are two things which I must call to your attention, which I believe involve improper surveillance.

First, I really think your letter was opened before it got to me. Two reasons: 1) Unfortunately I opened the letter by tearing open the sealed flap. However, my tearing left most of the edge of the flap still glued down. There is, I believe an area where there was a light smudge made on the original sealing. Now, there is about 1/16 inch of clean paper separating the edge of the flap and the continuation of the smudge. Also, there are 2 areas below the current position of the edge of the flap where the paper is slightly disturbed as when the glued sheets are ~~XXXX~~ pried apart. When I said 1/16 inch before, I meant 1/16 wide. It's over an inch long. The letter is postmarked Apr. 12 PM and arrived this AM.

Inside, one letter was damaged. It was your 3/16/71 to Senator Long. First, it is folded as none of yours I've seen-- into 4 spaces of equal size. It had not been folded prior to the making of these. It apparently has been roughly handled for there are numerous other incomplete folds. Two chunks of the paper have been ripped out, one on the top, and one on the left side at the middle crease, in a way which removed some paper and left irregular, rolled edges. I have no way of knowing if this occurred while the letter was in your possession but please tell me. I cannot see how it could have.

I've been calling the various people you asked me to. Will detail later. Called the Bulletin for copies of FBI stolen docs. Waited 10 minutes while gal at switchboard connected me to the "Library." There I asked a girl if I could get copies for research. She said to a man near her, "He wants copies of the stolen FBI documents." The man laughed and said, "So does the FBI." At that a chronic buzz appeared in the connection so that I could barely hear what was said. The girl said she could only give me dates of news stories and I asked again for copy of just one doc. A man answered and I repeated my request. Suddenly the connection went dead, though the buzzing continued. I don't think the man hung up for I did not then get a dial-tone. Finally I hung up.

Perhaps you were right that the Bulletin's phones were a good target for tapping.

On a note more negative than I desire, I wish you a (belated) happy birthday. I believe your letter indicated you were 58, but I find this incomprehensible for your idealism, dedication, and undying efforts seem more like those of one much younger. My 18th approaches, not brightened by upcoming Congressional action which may deny me ~~MY~~ the chance to finish my college education on my scholarship and force me to actions I might otherwise never consider but to escape that which I refuse to do.

Best,