

10/27/66

Dear Sylvia,

Today I blundered into CBS News and something I should have checked into earlier. As I have been going over my materials, it has struck me that some are less complete than they might have been. The demise of my 40-year-old portable typewriter delayed my return for further checking. Yesterday I got another and today I was working in the archive when they started wheeling in lights. When the attendant announced that some pictures were to be taken and anyone who might be disturbed could, this time only, take out of that room those materials normally not removable, I paid little attention and was typing away when George Herman of CBS news came up and asked if I'd mind answering a question. I didn't mind, I was glad to. But after seeing what CBS did to Penn tonight I'll feel a lot better when I see what they do with me tomorrow night. I was asked if I found what I was looking for in the archive. I said that I had found much, that there was much I could yet find, that what was available was great, but that there was much that should be available and wasn't, and here I tried to be fair to the Archives and the archivist and pointed out that it was not he but other branches of the government that controlled what was available. I hope everyone has had the same experience I have, that they have been as cooperative as anyone could expect. I hope it comes out this way.

I met Herman back in March of April, I suppose, introduced by a British correspondent. He was very decent to me when we taped for the Mike Wallace radio show. I've seen him a couple of times since and rather like him. He also told me something about Penn: that he got rough treatment from the Washington press corps not because they found anything wrong with him but because, in his words, Welsh was "completely insufferable". Herman told me he drew Penn aside after the press conference. I have been told by others that he interviewed Penn sympathetically. These "others" do not know the subject, so they could be wrong. I hope not.

Well, I especially wanted to check over some of my earlier work, for as I studied some of the documents that were allegedly complete and seemed superficially to be complete, I became more and more convinced that they might not be. It turns out that way. I find that I had Xeroxed for me what seems to be a complete file, that it is all that was in the file when I first saw it, and that seven pages were not then in it that should have been. Inquiry indicates this is not of evil root. It is simply that sometimes papers are removed from files for Xeroxing or other purposes and slips are not put in indicating the removal of these papers. So, I had no way of knowing that they were missing, and in the Xeroxing this also did not show. I hope I'm not naive about this, but my experience leads me to believe the people at the archive take their responsibilities seriously. I think they try and be fair. For example, when I could not get UPI to give me a letter enabling anyone other than me to see their properties, when I delivered the letter I asked that it be extended to all qualified to use the file under the same conditions otherwise it would be unfair. I believe they have done this.

For the benefit of those Californians with whom you are in contact, when you write them, KFTV is to carry the tape, but only two hours of it, according to my information from the Washington station.

Playboy's February issue is to carry an story on Lane, personality story or an interview piece.

I got a card of acknowledgement today from one of the two challenges I issued the SR, (one to Cousins personally.)

Perhaps I am too optimistic, but I think this thing is moving faster than most of us realize. As time happens, I believe specialization becomes more important. While I do not agree with what Vince told me of his theory on the Espruder movie, I think it is wonderful that he is working so hard on it. In the same sense, I wish you could, if you agree, find some way of persuading Ray to do what he can do with the bullet and wind up with something that can get and deserve an audience....I heard rumors today of some kind of groups that is to come to Washington next month to demand a reopening of the case or a reconvening of the Commission. I could get no particulars. Know anything.

Sincerely,