

7/3/73

Dear Sol,

At its worst, your handwriting is better than my best. I could make out just about all of your 6/29.

No word from prospective German publisher. His US agent was a week late leaving for Germany. If I felt I could honestly outline, there is also a possibility with Paltrinelli (widow-he published my first book in Italy and I've heard from her). I will not commit myself to an outline which could be the basis of a contrast while the story is breaking, even if I expect little to influence what I have in mind.

If I do this book, I'll be dealing with Burger as I did in the ~~novel~~ unprinted part of what became Frame-Up. Terrible man! Powell does make pretense of principle and seems impelled to do enough to give a semblance of reality to it.

What you say of Magruder/Coffin is, of course, correct. But why not go a step further: with Coffin there was a judicial determination of fact - innocence.

Your figure of the shepherd and the flock is apt. I may use it! It is simple, says much, and has the perfect perspective.

En banc rehearing my FOI suit, with arguments, 7/11. I met with lawyers Thursday. Unfortunately, they lumped it with one of the cheapies, a bad suit.

I've gotten most of my Watergate files in shape for writing and I've begun writing of what was fresh in mind. The material is too enormous. It would take a large committee at least a year to make adequate inquiry into all the viable leads in Dean's testimony alone. Most were missed or ignored by the press, which is not criticism, given their inability to keep up with the details of the whole mess and the subtlety with which Dean managed to plant these little things in, for whatever purpose(s).

You say you've been watching the hearings. I take this to mean not all of them but when you could. If you caught the last of Weicher in the Dean sequences, you may remember reference to a law proscribing what I recall as "improper interference with the proper functioning of" Congressional committees and other bodies. I am reasonably confident that this is the law Dies had enacted in his futile effort to "get" Pat Jackson and me. If your law library has this and if it is not too much copy to xerox, I'd appreciate a copy.

Back to the salt mines (no figure this hot sultry day). Best to all,

June 29, 1973

Dear Harold,

This letter will have to be handwritten because the girl who does my typing is going off on vacation for three weeks and I don't want my reply to you to wait that long. So I'll have to plague you with deciphering my handwriting, as the lesser evil.

I'm sorry you had no time during your lightning trip to New York (if travelling by bus can be called that) to phone me. But there will be occasions in the future (near I hope) for us to get together. If Freda and I come down to Washington at all this summer we'll make time to get out to see you and til and will let you know when we're coming.

I do hope your negotiations with the Germans published ~~have~~ ~~proved~~ fruitful and that you beat the others & get out a book which sells well and from which you get what you should. And if I can help let me know.

As for Norman & those unrelated conservative conservatives, if not reactionaries, Berger & Powell, all I can say is that Powell impresses me pleasantly occasionally; Berger never does, he is consistently bad. In fact the two worst judges on the bench now are Berger & Rehnquist, low followers of Nixon through thick & thin, though he has us & bug.

The Watergate hearings fascinate me, not just on terms of their disclosures but also because of the ~~anomalies~~ ~~and~~ ^{anomalies} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~last~~ ^{last} ~~thing~~ ^{thing} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~justify~~ ^{justify} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~involvement~~ ^{involvement} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~break-ins~~ ^{break-ins} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~illegal~~ ^{illegal} ~~wiretaps~~ ^{wiretaps} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~obstruction~~ ^{obstruction} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~justice~~ ^{justice} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~saying~~ ^{saying} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~following~~ ^{following} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~example~~ ^{example} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~former~~ ^{former} ~~teacher~~ ^{teacher} ~~Coffin~~ ^{Coffin} ~~who~~ ^{who} ~~defied~~ ^{defied} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~law~~ ^{law} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~advising~~ ^{advising} ~~objectors~~ ^{objectors} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Viet~~ ^{Viet} ~~Nam~~ ^{Nam} ~~War~~ ^{War} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~burn~~ ^{burn} ~~their~~ ^{their} ~~draft~~ ^{draft} ~~cards?~~ ^{cards?} ~~Why~~ ^{Why} ~~did~~ ^{did} ~~no~~ ^{no} ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~point~~ ^{point} ~~out~~ ^{out} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~only~~ ^{only} ~~way~~ ^{way} ~~persons~~ ^{persons} ~~objecting~~ ^{objecting} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~government's~~ ^{government's} ~~murders~~ ^{murders} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~actions~~ ^{actions} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~public~~ ^{public} ~~defiance~~ ^{defiance} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~its~~ ^{its} ~~atrocious~~ ^{atrocious} ~~conduct~~ ^{conduct}, ~~while~~ ^{while} ~~he~~ ^{he}, ~~Magnus~~ ^{Magnus}, ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~engaging~~ ^{engaging} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~secret~~ ^{secret} ~~criminal~~ ^{criminal} ~~activities?~~ ^{activities?} ~~Why~~ ^{Why} ~~did~~ ^{did} ~~no~~ ^{no} ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~point~~ ^{point} ~~out~~ ^{out} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Coffin~~ ^{Coffin} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~acting~~ ^{acting} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~a~~ ^a ~~private~~ ^{private} ~~citizen~~ ^{citizen} ~~who~~ ^{who} ~~could~~ ^{could}

object to government called as evil law but Magruder
was a government worker, or had been, and was
supposedly working to secure compliance with law?
He was a shepherd who ~~didn't~~ helped destroy the flock
he was supposed to guard, the laws and constitution.
Coffin was a simple member of the flock who sought
to change the conduct of the shepherd, the establisher
& enforcer of the law.

Please let me know what happens in the FBI, such
Good luck in everything, book, wallet, health,
etc.

Sincerely
Sal H