11/10/69

Dear Gary,

I spent all of yesterday and most of today answering correspondence. I've finally gotten to do a draft of what I should have done for the lecture bureau a month ago and will let it cool overnight and then polish. It is too late to finish the answer to your 11/3, but I expect to do that tomorrow.

The Saturday visit of the Post reporter was quite satisfactory. He covered the King trial, had doubts, was hard to convince and, I think, now it. I'll be seeing him again soon. I think it possible that he'll help in some ways. I think he's willing to. Some of the unpublished material shook him.

A phone call from Moo just before supper was a pleasant surprise. I'd expected Jim to win on the first ballot, as you may have noted in a few of my recent letters. But I did not expect as large a margin. He got twice as many voters over his combined opposition than I'd figured. I did not expect Connick to get as much as he did and I did expect Ward to get more than he did. Here I think the influence of the papers shows, not so much in anti-Garrison votes as in how placed. They figure the papers cost them about 15,000 votes. You know, Jim is the first NO DA ever reelected. This is also the first time any DA won for the third time. I had expect Jim to run strongest in black and working-class neighborhoods. Moo confirms this, saying they got 65-70% there.

This letter is to you only. Do not spread it. Jim has to go to the hospital pretty promptly. Whether for traction or surgery is not determined. One of the two mayoral candidates opposed him. The other didn't endorse anyone (in which case I'd be willing to assume his people helped Jim). Unless I misread, Jim will now, quietly or otherwise, work against the guy who endorsed Connick.

You may recall my saying he was, in my belief, the most popular man in the State. When I said this to Moo a month ago he wasn't certain. I think this election establishes that. It is a strange State, with uncommon attitudes. If I were to guess the one factor most important in his victory, I'd say it is his personalizing it as against the federal government, not the good things he has done. Because attitudes there are so different from what we know, for a while I was reluctant tomake an estimate. But as the campaign wore on and I saw the opposition was doing nothing but repeating itself, the outcome became more clear.

For the fiasco from which he has recovered, this is no less than spectacular.

Anyway, I do not know which of the transcripts you'll want. I'll let you, Paul and Dick know what I have when I get it. I have indicated my priorities in interest. And if they are going to stay active politically, it may not be possible for Moo to come here as early as I'd like. He said a month or two, There is no doubt Jim will now continue. He pledged it in his campaign. My help will be conditional upon certain stipulations and agreements. One would be they do the local things undone. Meanwhile, they know from my leaving in advance of the Shaw trial that I mean and do what I say. If they will do it responsibly, an enormous amount can be done, what is good to be done. We'll see. You may recall what Moo was getting interested in just before the Shaw trial, when it was too late for them.

Sincerely,