12/5/71

Dear Js,

Nothing can adversely influence my typing, so, having learned from need (to debrief myself before I foggot and got into entirely different things) flying from N.O. to Dallas, I've written a letter between Dallas and Chi and begin one I've been wanting to write you for several weeks, between Chicago and Green Bay, the one stop before Stevens Point, where I speak tomorrow night and will be bull-sessioning with the students when I'm not having seminars. I hope to get more notes typed, for this has been quite a trip. Much more successful than the subdued letter to Gary indicates. Beyond my expectations. You'll probably remember the (Ned) reason I am doing this. He produced and supported Ned.

From Dallas to Chicago no sign of land. It was truly impressive, and comforting, to set down in all that impenetrable fog, the first sight of anything being the tops of outlying hangars, smackdab in the center of the runway with a 300-500 foot ceiling. Couldn't have been better on the clearest day. We left Dallas about 25 minutes late but with a 160 mph tailwind, we landed a mite early on the 2-hour trip. Also impressive. We are now in the sun above the clouds and weather.

Lil told me of Jim's letter suggesting that she not send the blanket until I can see it. Thanks. I'd like to. I'm her great fan. She learns from each new thing she does, more from those things that do not please her. I wish that she could develop a market for her work. She does it because she likes to, and it seems to be good for her arthritic fingers, too. But she does so much of it that a faint taste of commercialism would not make me feel unclean. Not a bit. I'll be home Tuesday late afternoon or night, depending on the lengthy of the debriefing I've asked of Bud and Jim, for their major interests seem so far in the past now, yet the more remote is only about 18 days ago. The second is a bit hairy. I'd thought I should be with Bud if and when he sees the guy with whom a meeting now seems a likelihood, but not the hairness as much as the many things that will be stacked atop the too much after three weeks discourage. When I'm home and read the mail I'll know better. My current disposition is to spend some time on my own affairs. In a month or so we'll have to find about $400 for the bank, and we still owe them the $1250 due on principle last year.

About the time we stopped climbi ng we have started approach to Green Bay, so I don't know how far I can get, for one has to fold and tuck before landing. The results of this trip have been fantastic. I've gotten good stuff from the (trusting) other side, even Shaw's lawyer, with whom I think I have a good relationship. Planer WDSU filled in a significant missing bit. Henry Wade opened his files to me, and I spent a scant day and a half going over them, hardly enough. Dean Storey, SMU and top Dallas law firm, has shown me his archive and has promised to comb his files. (He helped organized AFIntel WWII he told me) Imagine Huntoffering me a a job, when you stop realizing what it took to get in at all when he is now so much more heavily screened - and I walked in on impulse! Allan Sweatt spent perhaps 4-5 hours with me. Talking, too. Three Parkland doctors spent an entire morning. (And supersh!! confirming what I already knew and say in last pt. PM, as you'll see, that theanterior neck wpund was above the collar! Among other things! Can youpicture two top v.p.s top Dallas bank taking me to lunch? Or Holland McCombs? Or Marcello's lawyer seeing me pronto? Or Chandler coming to stay with me?

Well! Despite the assurances at O'hare, it seems that Stevens Point is socked in. I am now on a bus that is about to start, about as far away in time as I was when I landed in Chi. I'd gone off the plane during the stop and just got my stuff off the plane in time. Fog at destination, it seems. And college kids biting nails for twohours.

So, now I can find out about typing on the bus, for we're off. I've got a "good book"- two- plus about 20of Hunt's, which are neither. I had thought that nights migh hang heavily, so I've Goulden on the Tonkin Gulg and Pent. Papers. By the way, please don't be tempted to getme Khruschev remembers,. I see it is out and a friend at Bantam will send. Thought you might be tempted. And I've had not time to read,even what in Dallas passes for papers.

Ruby was really sick. He did everything from fondling 13-year old girls in public to attempting rape (which is not to say he never succeeded) to masturbating dogs to practising cunilungulus in public. He did premeditate, admitted it (including to Senator, which accounts for that strange Sunday night 11/24 at the Ruby apartment and inspires more wonder at what happened to those there, all now dead, two by violence, one in a police station), and repeated it to Wade in 7/64.

Roads, narrow, are clearof snow but just saw a procession of six snomobileson the shoulders. Men like kids with toys. Hope we hit something larger than a two-lane road soon. We haven't even crossed one.

Hudkins' source was not Sweatt but a Houston FBI agent. He lied when questioned to keep the FBI from firing his informant. I've even found witnesses who saw the FBI grilling.

The ever-thoughtful city fathers have not only resurfaced Elm St., as they did early, but have replaced the paving of the sidewalk where there had been the mark of a bullet (I saw it three years ago). Took up 8 squares so the expansion joints would remain in the same pattern.

My sources in the anti-Garrison camp told me before I lefy N.O. the day before Thanksgiving that he'd be indicted by the feds in a week or more. I hear he has been. One of the decisions then allegedly not reached was who else to ibclude and whether to include the last session of the legislature. If, as I understand,, there is a bribery count, it could trace to that lobbying. I have no doubt he did. Wish I had time to tell you about my meetings with him and what he's been doping out. When I fixed on the title Lemming if I ever do another N.O. book I couldn't have been more on thebeam. He is real sixk. Aside from in the head he has a hospital-staph infection from the bacl operation, which was not completely successful. And his oldest boy was then in the hospital with a second brain hemmorage..How strange it is to see him and Dymond and Brener, among others, on the same side! And him (he told me) calling the shots. I thought they'd done it to him by asking for a change of venue. He is insane not to sever and to agree to change venue. His reasoning is that he's be criticized for allegedly xontrollling the judge, but a jury decides last I heard....If he froze naked at Tulane & Broad fox six months, I doubt he've be convicted on indecent eposure.

The gl acier did its work well here. About But as flat asthe Estern Shore or La. Betting too dark. Gotta quit. Best HW

The kids are great. They honored me by making me one of them, with a nice dinner of too much the girls got together for about two dozen. We bull-sessioned until 2:30. They, those who live here, and now at registration for the new semester, after which I'll go to the student activities building with them. They have a bohemian informality, at least two couples of them shacked up here in an old farmhouse where they have improvised everything, the attractive tables involuntarily supplied by the phone company (cable reels on box pedestals). They emptied the plane at Green Bay, a long two hours by bus. Fog, which persists in a.m. Dreary bus trip, dreary land, not neat, suggesting newly-abandoned pasture land (no fences, no brush, scattered weeds). The fellow who surrendered his room to me improvised well, except for the height of this table. With scrap wood he has built two of the cardboard file drawers in. His orgabizers are made from pieces of boxes, the grain quite visible for he did no sanding, and he painted it all attractively. I note he has a Don Quixote sketch up, Buneghel the younger's Wedding Dance, and smaller prints of Picasso and others. They are living their own lives and trying to influence them, as by opposing varsity sports. They want the money for the library. But I'd best work on some notes, for I'll not remember everything. Best, HW