

9/18/71

Dear Gary,

We had a very pleasant, if too short, visit from Ned, who we have come to like more the more we see of him. Among other things, he is as decent as he is honest, and aside from a small proportion of the criticisms with whom I remain in touch, I can't say this of as many as I'd like to.

In time, you and he will be together and He'll tell you what there is to say.

He told me of your concern that something may be wrong with us because I haven't been writing you as much. There is nothing wrong with us other than the natural progression of our pre-existing problems. In some ways, especially financial and their natural by-product, they are, of course, worse, but this does not account for my having written you so much less.

You appear not have to have detected the forecast of it or the reason. Several times in the past I asked if you were not spreading yourself too thin, then I got more pointed and asked if your effort to keep up with your required work and your career did not make it necessary for you to curtail your assassination work. When it became obvious that you could not do all of the things you want to, I urged you to drop the assassination work at least until you completed your thesis. Have you forgotten these things?

So, I didn't want to be in the position of teasing you, and I'd didn't want you to be in the position of being tormented.

Some time back I made other decision I also then communicated to you, and again you seem not to have caught what I was saying. After all the evils of which you will have some recall, I decided that the basis for continuing this work was a modification of what the spookery calls need-to-know, meaning this and the possibility of constructive purposes to be served. I just can't write as many letters as I did and keep writing and researching and all the other things. My place, for example, has become a mess (partly because I can't afford lawnmowers I can keep in operation, partly because I don't take the time to keep it as it should be, which had always been the exercise I need and enjoy.) I take a brisk walk in the a.m. and that is my exercise.

So, it is neither personal nor new problems, not sickness. It is just the normal pressures here and not to make new, abnormal pressures there. When you are here, I'll update you as much as you want. I've finished the draft of the last part of PM, have the first two to edit, then will return to AGENT OSWALD, already started, then probably TIGER, also started, and meanwhile I've laid the foundation for at least a dozen suits, etc., and from time to time, as right now, I have a fair amount of work to do on the Ray case, where the real problems to contend with are greater than you can imagine. But perhaps the greatest disappointment and the most serious problem are from the crooked publishers, who have beat me out of perhaps \$4,000, plus what they have cost them and us by abdication. Not having this money that is due is and we urgently need, gave my nerves a bad time of it for about six weeks, inevitably this rubs off on Lil, whose halitosis is just, in fact, I think a bit benefitted by Ned's presence, just begun to get back to what for it is normal. Aside from these things, the only new problems are the old problems, finding time, money, help and coping with the nuts like Bud and his crew, tolerating their excesses, and the publisher and press attitude toward the subject...And there is a new generation, a small new wave with whom I spent and have spent much time, like Howard and Jerry. They want to be helpful and in ways are, but really I am helping them prepare. Howard's progress is a joy. He began with an exceptional intelligence and in all ways a fine character and he has progressed remarkably. I have, for illustration, given him my Vietnam files going way, way back to before the assassination. Or, all we could find. I've turned all of that over to him. Jerry can best fill the part you and Hal did, and he has a flair for it and is excellent at it. He'll not have time for deep research. I've other letters to write. Best regards,

9/14/71

Dear Gary,

The books arrived in first-class shape today and with a bonus--all those stamps were uncanceled. I'll use them again, of course, and I'm delighted you used stamps of small denomination. Every time I spend \$8.00 for a role it is a wrench.

As you asked, I'll tell you the amount you owe us after crediting what you returned. Lil will figure that in a few moments. But she has already told me of a slight error in it. The discrepancy between the bill we have sent you and the adjusted bill we will not send is a small amount in your favor because postage was a little less than she had computed. She noted the difference on our copy of the bill she sent for this moment, when we settle. And another bonus: you have increased my stock of O in NO by a third. It is out of print and I'm refusing to sell copies except at the cost of xerox replacement, reserving the few I have for those who have real need for them. I have one library that wants the xerox copy, and the prof. who made a deal with me to supply me with a xerox master in return for two copies has not responded to my last three or four inquiries. My next one will be one he'll remember.

Ned will be here late tomorrow night. I look forward to it. He will read the new last part of PM. I think it is dynamite, what we have to this moment never had. I'm cleaning up odds and ends of things until he gets here and then, with suggestions he is to have made, I'll begin cutting the first part. While none of it is not worthwhile, much is unnecessary and often out-of-place in the book as it now stands. And, alas, it will still be a long one. They I have to defang parts of what was III. I hate to have to do both things because I'd rather be writing more. And each change means much work if we are to preserve a master that can be shot for offset, should that become possible. With my experiences with O&D, who have beat me out of about half of the "advance" and have invented non-existent charges to assess, all the limitations and disadvantages of a private printing seem less unattractive. But, this time, if it can be done, there are fewer talk shows, fewer people who can do the fine pr work you and others did, and I'll have to find new ways of exploiting the news. I've been working on some which serve other purposes.

If you recall the original of COUP, then you may recall that recent developments were foreseen by an aging seer who did not so conceive himself. It is no joy to have had such clear vision. God knows what will happen. Almost in anticipation I also addressed this in the last part of PM, what Lil is now typing, in a different context, the pronouncements from the mouth of the laws by Burger and Mitchell. The new law, the wrong interpretations of the Constitution. We'll correct all that now and then there will be no lost time with frills, the Atticas will be restocked, the San Quintins toughened up a bit, and once again this will be the best of possible worlds. Take comfort, friend. Besides, this will drive so many fine young people up the closest wall you'll soon have a practise that with half your work free will soon make you rich.

While I am in this bitter mood, from the endless invention of new evils before the previous has been dimmed and from the pressing money problems all the crooks have caused me--even the insane Penn refuses to pay what he owes, such people as the Freep and the San D committee people, like him, do not even answer letters-- let me ask if you have heard from Mary. I'll take your silence as negative so you won't have to write needlessly. She has not told me but Buck is in bad shape. Bud told me. They were due to spend part of last month here and she hasn't even written. Lil had made an afghan for her. I hesitate to write and ask...Lil has just brought me the corrected bill. The change is in the original total, now \$84.64. It had been about a buck more...It is about supper time and although we've had a fair amount of rain--the pool is 6" higher -- and it has turned cooler, we're going to see if we can take a short swim. Hope you are well, working your schedule out, and happy.

Best,