5/13/71

Dear Gary,

I'd planned to answer your letter of the 8th, with copies of those to Gary and Jerry, before going to bed last night, but by then I was so tired and I suppose depressed that I went to bed and read for a while. Early, that is. I fell asleep, as usual, as soon as I closed my eyes, had been so sound asleep that I didn't hear the phone ring. Lil awakened me and I spoke to one of the sources of my concern, one of the things that is depressing me. I have come to the ppint where assurances of purity suggest demur-looking whores. So, I talked, made myself clear, await a letter, and went back to sleep wide awake. I guess it remained on my subconscious, for I was wide awake too early and before daylight. I am separated from this source by the width of the continent. He either has some of the best possibilities we have ever had (thus far coming up with nothing that is new but with what almost nobody knows, in at least one case with what I am certain nobody else knows) or is part of another disaster. With being able to get to where he and his sources are, I have to try and cope with this by long letters. He is dealing with two other people, and they are his sources. I believe in this respect he must be truthful, for his material, that is, his representations of what he has seen and been told, can not be the manufacture of just a far-out guy. That he has told me what I alone regard as one of the keys to the Ray case and have shared with nobody else working on it, least of all those nuts of Bud's, I must take as a sign of inside info, which is what he alleges. But the troubling thing is that he has done and gives indication of doing the most irresponsible things he now attributes to the demand of one of his sources. In turn, that makes me wonder about that source, not his knowledge but his purposes. I had told him either he does this my way or we cut off. This seems to have troubled him deeply, for I also charged him with what I regard as the inevitable consequences. Ss you know, I canbe pretty blunt and I was. Thus he called (he can't afford to), as he was to have done several days earlier (he might not have had the $$$ then), and he has now promised to spell it all out. We'll see, but I fear the possible workings of the Department of Disinformation again when we are again at a point of accomplishment. I can keep telling myself I'll no longer be our fireman, but when I am faced by something like this and there is really nobody else, what choices have I?

It is but one of the too-many things that depress me. I recently went through a tough bit with Bud, and had to do that by remote for fear of the consequences of direct confrontation on it. By now I suppose I've sent you enough for you to have an idea of what it was, what it could have been. Again I have to ask, supposeI didn't do this? It was the same in N.O., as you more than others know. The accumulated effect is an enormous intrusion into my own productivity, wearying beyond the possibility of one without yout training to being to understand, and whan to that I add the more personal problems and the bad situation with the publisher, who thus far has done no single thing right, the total effect is depressing. I remember the advice I was given years ago by the only shrinl to whom I've ever talked for whom I ever had any respect. I was discussing Lil with him, and the effects of the overflights of the helicopters. He said a simple thing: one has to react to something like this. That one reacts is not a sign of mental illness but rather of mental health, for only a sick person could fail to react. Makes sense. It was on his advice that we moved when we couldn't begin to afford to. So, I suppose that with all these many things, so many of which are unknown to you, bear downon me, I suppose it is necessary that I react, it that they depress. If this makes it no more welcome, it does make it more comprehensible.

I would estimate that from the time the book came out to now, these things have been accumulating, as has been their consequences. I have yet to getmy copy of the signed contract, although it has been promised (which makes it more difficult to insist on performance on its provisions, doesn't it?), yet to get even the 8 lousy freebees it called for, yet the get the second part of the advance due 2/8 at the latest, and that of the chiselled advance (I'm collecting proof of the size agreed to and had to spend some time on it in DC Thuesday when I should have been doing other things), and to this day, they have not arranged a single one of the promotions, all but a couple of which have been in

NYVonly. Those Jerry (whose skill and instinct improve with each effort and who has been simply great beginning, as you perhaps did not know, with absolutely no experience in P.R. at all), assisted by Carol Jackson, handled beautifully. Between Jerry and me we arranged all. Carol did the phoning on the press conference. To illustrate the problem, the previous trip to NYC, in a few phone calls before I left town I arranged three radio appearances and two on TV. I informed them of these, told them how much lead time each station required, and told them to call each station as soon as the day of my return was known. Jerry and I arranged that at least three weeks early and they were informed by both of us. Therefore, they did not contact a single station, and of those things Jerry salvaged one and I another, I improvised a third, Jerry arranged a fourth by himself (with Alex Bennett), and on the spur of the momement, when at 8 p.m. we had not even had lunch, Jerry suggested another, I picked up the phone and in ten minutes what was taped was aired. All of this little bit without anyhelp from the one who has the contractual obligation to do it. In fact, espite him. I do notknow how Jerry continues to accept the personal affronts they give him, really nasty stuff, like reading mail when he goes there to help them. I have asked him not to tell them off (I've done enough of that), and it is a sign of Jerry's decency, concern, dedication and self-control (that at his year I'd not have been able to exercise) that he has held himself.

They were supposed to have sent me around as soon as the book was out and they have not even responded on this. They were supposed to have held a press conference and they simply refused. They never paid attention to a single one of my cautions, almost all of which have already been established as what had to be expected and what come to pass. Thus there was nothing to be inthe minds of any of the media when they whores started ganging up, and the cumulative effect of the Kaplins, Gertz', Barkhams and how many others I do not know will be depressing on sales. And appearances. For everything I have had to fight, and Christ, with all the other fighting, having to fight my own publisher too? If they had done the obvious, the necessary, there is a good chance that the book could have been contracted for reprint a year hence. The readings with that in mind were favorable, and they had nothing to do with this, either. I was kept posted when they were not. The rest of their abdications and stupidities are de trop. They without deviation either did nothing or what was wrong.

This is only that which is new. The old things continue as a heavy load, so I think you can understand why I feel overloaded, why dpressed from time to time, as last night, way, whether or not frommohysical causes, so utterly exhausted. And despite the kindnesses of a few friends, great kindnesses, I feel entirely alone, for there is no one who can help in any meaningful way. I think these combinations are why I feel the anxiety has increased in the past two months, to the point where it has actually effected my heart, which skips beats, pounds hard enough for me to feel when there has been no exercise, flutters from time to time, all adding to the anxiety I have butisol for that. Do you know what it is?

Snyway, before I get to other things, congrats on addressing the bar and on the work you have done with those people. That business on Lykken, which you had reported earlier, is, unfortunately, the sign of the times, not the exception....And so far as the publisher giving Mike a book, not only would he not, but when I can't get enough for use hereand have to buy them, can I justify promo in Britain where the book is not on sale (and the Telegraph killed a story on it filed by their NY reporter on the London angle)? Besides, if Mike gets it, it will wind up as one of Joesten's newest world-shaking personal discover ies. I have actually had to buy perhaps a dozen of the press copies I've used.

No time for more. Best, and have a great time in Calif and with the legaleagles.