3/31/71

Dear Gary,

Because I know you are concerned about my health, having a brief period before waking Lil, I report what I regard as an improvement. The two trips to NYV were hard on my sprained foot, but staying home, except for taking Lil to work and fathcing her, wearing sandals and not walking have wrought a big improvement. I did take a little more than an hour Monday to do some work outside, but that was standing more than anything else. I trimmed out some trees I'd taken down in the fall and hadn't been able to touch since because of the should bursitis, weather, etc., and for the past two night we had the cheer of a fire in the fireplace. I don't have to go to Washington until Friday. I'd have sawed the trunks up yesterday, but at the one time I feel it is safe to be away from the phone now, lunch time, I had to await a scheduled call. I find leaving the wrap off helps, so I don't wrap it. And the headaches, which didn't fail to hit once a day, have tapered off to where I haven't had a severe one in a week, although there remains a feeling of pressure behind the right eye most of the time. The past two mornings I've been able to return to sleep briefly after the usual 4 a.m. awakening, and the past two nights I've gone to bed a bit earlier and fallen asleep immediately. Perhaps this means I'm more relaxed. If that is the case, to switch to your discipline, it is not because I have had fewer tensions, for I have more, but it is because I had a good fight and, possibly from it, some relief. Or, perhps it is the vidnication of my judgement in a not good fight, with Harris, when he and David were prepared to do nothin when it was contrived for Huie and Dwyer to have unopposed TV attention in NYC, which would have been a disaster, for the media mind would have been fixed by that whitewashing. The editing of the show was heavy and, from what Jerry says, rought on me, but I seem to emerge nonetheless as the good guy, as one of the kids at the taping described me to others who had not been at the previous week's, when I walked on, the one who knew what he was talking about, and if there is a winner in such things, the winner. I've had appraisials other than Jerry's. The interesting thing is that each one single out a quiet close to the first show as a high point. There I had no conflict once Hanes got the idea that if he simmer down I'd not bother him and that if he didn't, his guts would show. I was able to close by putting the whole thing in perspective, briefly, and, at the same time, say there was no case.

It is also interesting that this show had much higher ratings, according to Jerry, about 10% of the audience, which, with that moderator and a new show, I imagine, is pretty good.

The continuing problem is resources and a non-performing publisher, who may know a but about how to sell a book on the ballet, but not a controversial subject. Two weeks ago Bud made a crack while I was on the phone with Harris, "When ate you gping to publish the book". Harris heard it and I suppose I made a mistake to cover, for Bud was right. Everything so far has been arranged by me or my friends, and on some of it, I had to fight them. Had I been my own publisher, with about $i,OOO, and with the same friends doing what they have in the past (with Jerry to do what I had one in NYC), we'd have gotten this book off to a much better start. Imagibe my going to Memphis without a copy, even for backgrounding, and being under injunction not to discuss it because of the fiction that with four weeks prior to the set-back pub date David still hoped for serialization! The slight vhance of that he blew by not keeping his production schedule and by keeping me out of it. He now consoles himself with the notion that the media hate me. He doesn't put it that way, but there is no place important he can go without having this given him as an excuse. What else can they say? At some of the place he went, I had friends on the inside who know the truth, as I told him when he was first here, but he asked no help and I felt it would be wrong for me to intrude. There were chances he muffed, because he didn t believe what I told him, and one of these is still viable, an examination of the writer's intrusion into the processes of justice. With the sefl-flagellation kick some of the press if off on, this has a chance, with the contrasting examples of Huie, Kaiser and me. Well, that is past, and even if the chances were slight, they could have been exploited better. Now, having done nothinb with the minor media, he is about to spend more than it would cost to send me around to try and get me on a talk show originating on the west coast, I think Griffin. Great if it works, but the chances are better if he can show what

I did and said, how I did, what I think, on minor shows. Not thanks to him he can, but he is going without the tapes that can convince the doubting that I have but a single head, that it is short hair and not snakes atop it, and that it is facts and fruth, not bombs that bulge from my pockets, as I wound yp one show with a guy who had been antagonistic on every JFK show any critic did-and we all did his. (Barry Farber, who now promises to air every time there is an official effort to suppress me.) Only now are the books beginning to get to those with talk shows to whom I asked two months ago that they be sent, so now I have a few minutes and can do only those I can pick up. I'm doing one to DC bu phone today, where Jerry got a copy of the book to his brother-in-law (a junior Jerry, good reporter, an fine kid), and Friday I'm taping a black TV show in DC, or I suppose, part of it. Meanwhile, there is always competetion for shelf soace, with all the books coming out, and with no advertising at all and only the promo we have arranged outselves, the orders are for small quabtities that, where we know of them, sell out immediately and the book is getting no display at all, not even where it was promised me. This is strictly business. The stores feel t at if the publisher has no push, the book will not go and they want to sell. There xx is nothign I can do about it, so I don't let myself woryy, but with a real job, with the reception so far, this could have become a best seller. One example, Foreman: If David had any knowhow, or even good instincts,he'd have been at and remained at the first Bandy Show. He was there long enough to know that Foreman had fled, from the studio, when he learned he would confront me. I begged him to exploit it. He said he had to leave that to the station. Yet he heard them confess their fear of the cost of defending a spurious suit to me, hence knew they'd do the opposite, if only because of their lawyers' orders! Had he just gone to the phones then and there, in time for the a.m. papers, there'd have been a good chance of a front-page story in the Times and on the services. That was a rare one and could have been handled as a feature. Imagine the man who even says he is the best trial (criminal) lawyer in the world fleeing a chicken-farmer confrontation! No assassination hangup there. It can still be done as a magaine piece, like Newsweek, but picture of a Roberts doing this!

The one thing David has in the works, of which I know, Bud or I could have arranged. That we didn t is simply because we were under wraps. I can't even tell David this without starting a fight or insulting him, and I want to do neither.

Jerry was and has been in every way both wonderful and effective, mature, even though this is his first p.r. experience, and I can't axaggerate how effective he has been. Snd how personally helpful in every way. He and Flo Kennedy, a militant black lawyer, womens' lib, etc, are starting a new assassination committee. Flo mentioned it at lunch last Thursday and I thanked her and like the idea, but felt I had to leave it at that, for I had been pressuring her off and on for several years and she bridled at the pressure. She could have reached people and done thinks. Militant as she is,she confessed Thursday to a physical fear, of being killed, and says this also dominates many of the blacks, who say if it happened to king.... They have started. Jerry mentioned it to me yesterday. They visualize another all-assassinations committee, and I strongly urged restricting it to King alone, which can include all black and if, successful in the future can be explanded. I want to get around the liberla-intellectual hangup on JFK and the media hangup. I hpe they come to see it this way. We'll fail otherwise, and it will not be easy this way. I doubt they'll get any but militants, and we can use a few others, for this issue crosses all political lines, addressing as it does all of the institutions of society and the rights of all, not being the story of an unsolved major crime only. I've gotten in a few licks by phone that may help them. Time will tell. But I'm going to have to stay pretty much out of it because of time and not to cross anybody, esp. Flo. And she is real busy, more than her usual busy, because she has a just-published book to promote on a hot topic, abprtion (she was one of the lawyers in the NY case), and has a speakers' bureau getting her bookings. Now aht pretty clearly Mark did when Gregory lined one up for me two years ago becomes hurtful, for with this even slight beginning, there should be some demand. ...If if you have any candidates for the committee, I'm sure you'll be hearing from Jerry.

When next I'm in NYC there are two waiting TV shows and, as I recall, three radio already lined up, one from a friend on t e TV I did, one from a call Jerry made, and the others arranged by me by phone the morning before I left. I may have made a slight dent in

The black wall of silence. I know I have, orgabizationally, on the lower level, and I'll have to see if it can work its way upward. I'll know in about three weeks. The difference in Flo is significant. This is one of the things over which she is resentful about my off-and-on pushing for two years and the bluntndess of my writing. After two years of doing jothing-refusing to do what she could--she is now turned on. This may be because she has seen what I do or it may represent a change in attitude. I hope it is the latter.

The weather has broken here, even if it lowered to 20 last night. In two weeks Lil's regular work ends, and even though we are now in financial crisism with something like$400 more than we have overdue, I'll be glad when she is home, for it is hard on both of us for her to work as she has been,day and night. And it will mean I can get some of the exercise I've been needing, not having to cover the phone, etc. I'll be able to take a good walk, things like that.

Perhaps you have noticed that with Paul it is not as you feared, despite what he seems to have told you. He has slackened off, but his own life demanded that anyway. And if I convvinced himabout Foreman,can you imagine what the effect on the average person can be?

How have to hear Huie ruining Huie someday. Robert's tape will be transcribed. (You do not know him, but he is a good fellow I asked to take his casette machine into the studio, on the assumption the show would be edited and promises to me would not be kept. There is noise, because this was all new to R, and ask his clothing rustled, the mike, down his sleeve, picked it up. Huie is really off his rocker.

My concern over Ray's interview with a reporter seems to have been unwarranted, according to what Bud said yesyerday. Ray refused to be interviewed at an open-house, even to be seen on camera, and they asked to see a single reporter, to whom he spoke about the jail conditions and the warden, with praie for both, and his life, what he does, no more. Which is good.

Now for the day. I've got Lil up and sipping her mate, I'll shave, we'll breakfast, and off to the battles. Hope you are okky.

Best,