3/24/71

Dear Gary,

Your mailing 22 rod today. Since the trip to NYC and one to DC Monday, leaving only Sunday, when people came, and last night, ditto, I've really been on a treadmill and the mail and other work have stacked high. With a sorained foot, I guess it will take some time to work out.

Especially because I leave for NYC again in the early a.m., for a taping tomorrow night that I had to fight like hell to get, to prevent an uncontested Huie-Dwyer (now judge, former prosecutor Memphis) airing on the Ray/King case. Believe me, it took some doing, wearing, costly and hard. And I suppose my head is on the block because I pushed the station so hard over their objections. You'd enjoy how, but no time. Huie is going to leave as soon as he has his few words, with the station to say for him that he will not appear with me because I am an irresponsible writer. I can't conceive a better intro, and thereafter it will be the former (rewarded) prosecutor and me, save for about the minute it will take to define Huie's "responsibility". He and Foreman are gutless- and guilty, guilt-ridden, I suspect in Huie's case.

I've read you letter to me but not the enclosures. Reply after return. Thanks to you and Ned. I'd also recommended those things in Europe and more, but they pay no attention to me until too late, when at all. I had a real fight with them today because they are doing nothing and pretend too-late sterility is something. They have placed no single add and if they plan one, I've seen no sign, which is not the way to get bookstores to stock or people to want. Again, I have to carry their weight when my own is so heavy.

Last night I got a call from a sweet cousin who will write you. This is how it came about. She was up a few days ago, which told me she had trouble. Her husband has either left her or he has been put out. He is a nice worthlessness, lazy, spoiled, immature, without ambition, and twice flunked freshman year in college. He nad she needed escape from home, so they married over my advice when both were too young. One child. Before they married they were close to us (1965), visiting us about every weekend at least once. As Jerry said to those fine friends of his after last week's taping, by way of introducing me at dinner, "no generation gap". That was the whole intro and I think the best! But Charlotte, who is bright, pretty and decent, is troubled, and I think hasn't come to the point where she can or will talk it out with me. I guess she thinks I'm biased in her favor. She may have a guilt feeling. Her mother's is heavy. Her father was an oxen ugh, with whom the mother stayed only because of C from the time she was 8. When I has asked C week ago Sunday about professional guidance, she seemed leery. So, I told her of you, how you were young and dealing with the young, and how I hoped you'd be here this summer, when I'd like you to talk to her. She phoned to ask how to reach you. I told her how over-committed you are. I think she may come and talk after she hears from you, maybe. I think if he could lay her head on a substitute-father's shoulder and have a good cry she'd be off to a good start. Hers was never a real father to her, though she'd like to think so, and I suspect she is very, very alone now. Perhaps this is garbled, but I hope not. Pressure to get ready for leaving and it is late night. If you have any guidance for me, it would be welcome, for she may accept relationship of trust again. There was once nothing we couldn't and didn't discuss, but I think she is up tight because I was right in every detail and analysis and prediction. And because I do not now chide her. She couldn't help it, not was there much chance of escaping it. Lil and I are both fond of and sorry for her, but we never show the sorrow...Jerry is up to his customary 100%, and I look forward to this new challenge, hoping I'm not too pooped by tomorrow night. I suspect they have made special preparations. I'm relying on my knowledge and dimming recall. And that wonderfully stupid intro from Huie! How can he be so zany? So it won't surprsie you, I'll read his letter to me offering me all his files! I want them only for an archive of the future. Ray himself says they are crap and not worth the effort, but I wanted to be fair to Huie. Best regards and again thanks to both. HW