2/18/71

Dear Gary,

This is hardly the kind of day for me to respond to an expert who tells me to take it easier. Ive been and will be a busy (no longer little) beaver. But let me begin with that, for as you know, I am also the pe sonality type that has to understand. You say I am predisposed to react Wsomatically to pressures". When you have time, fill this in a little. I take that to mean that there is a physical reaction by the body to the emotional. I guess part of my problem is that I am not always aware of pressures, for usually I do not consciously (I guess that should be underscored) feel them. I do know, and bearing on your comment, that yesterday, the day after I actually filed the papers, I was pooped for no apparent reason. Today I just feel as one who is 57 and very close to 58 ought feel after a long period of physical inactivity. But I suppose this unending living with unending corruption influences me in ways of which I am unaware.

I had about enough time for reasonable response to your 2/12 when I started, but the phone interrupted me and I'll have to cut some out so that aftee lunch I can get onto pressing things I'll not bothe you with.

I do not know what I said of Paul to which you take exeeption. In your excellent letter to him (not all of which was enclaosed, but that is immaterial, you paraphrase much of what I think I said. Part of my concern is that his melon shit would demean an average high-school, general-science student, and I gave evern confidence that in physics he is brilliant (I have the highest opinion of him and his intelligence) . How can I not wonder or worry in the face of this. Part of it is that of all the things to which he can devote himself, he throws back to fairies and needles. Bow you are imprecise in saying that he plans no publication. He never did. It was Alvarez who did. I think it is probably accurate, as PG says, that this is now not in prospect. And I also think it is the very vigor and specification of my criticism plus my letter to the magazine demanding simultaneous ewual space that killed it. This also is immaterial.

Glad to hear where Gary Shory is. I've already spoken to him, he's going to start a talk show (his) and I'll be doing it. I also have a call into Sotobeer. With your schedule, unless you need the money desparately, I think you are crazy to go around speaking. The unfluence of the small audience that can be reached eliminates any other consideration.

Your letter to Paul about him is excellent. Unless others raise this, I've forgotten it except as it make me worry about Paul (not that he is a fink), for whom I remain with the highest ragard, only worry.

Roberts would get in touch with Nichols, with a shitty suit. I've filed three in Washington without any interest on his part. This also makes me wonder about Ned, or at least gis judgement and its ultimate effect.

I have long understood that eventually others would have to slacken off. It ha to be that way, especially for the young, who have mostbof their lives ahead of them. My worry was that you had become depressed over Paul. I have also understood, without false heroics, what falls upon me. My only worry on this scare has nothing to do with what it has done and is doing to me, but with what it may do to my ability to do what must. A couple pf the newers ones are great, though.

On Lifton, about which I'll not take time; I'm of the opinion that you may be charitable. Knowing that he is and has been ill is not enough. He presents hazards. Including for this reason. And in part because of his diligent espionage.

Before I get onto the other things I must do, returning to Ned, can you explain to me why he has this interest in the Nichols suit (about which you should not have told him after what I told you about the hazards it presents - werr I the government lawyer xx I could defeat it easily, I am sure) and goes into it with Roberts when there is already a victorious suit, even with a summary judgement against the Government, in itself a rarity? It is no enoug to say that Roberts doesn't like me. I did file and I did win such a suit. I've filed two since then. Were I inBurke Marshall's place, I'd feel it necessary to resist the Nichols approach and suit. If you have read it, you haven't understood it, in its current form or its earlier one. Now it also happens that in the suit I won there is the record of total, undeviating official falsehood, which is a judicial confirmation of what we all allege about the official investigation of the assassination. Letters without end, all false, proving their own falsity. In news terms, this is, to any honest and dispassionate news concept, a good news story. I charged official perjury in court. That makes it immune to suit and, there is, to this Moment, no official response, certainly no denial. I charged it to Mitchell and Kleindienst, and they, too, are silent. So it is not a news concept that predominates here. The most charitable explanation I can offer is that Roberts conned Ned.

On the book, you'll not be able to get a book-store discount through either the publishers or the distributors, Dutton. They are supposed to let me have some for retail sale to those who write and ask for it. I've heard nothing further on this score. If and when I get them, you can have some at my cost, for you should not have to do this at your own cost. And, of course, I do appreaciate anything you can do. The last I heard is that the first shipment from the bindery was to be tommorrow. To this moment, no single part of the schedule was kept. The manufacturing, for example, was to have been completed by October! Sorry I didn't send the review. A copy is enclosed.

The other enclosures, including to your school, are self-explanatory. On the draft of the recent papers, Jim if to send them to Sylvia, who is to send them to Bernabei, who is to end them to you. Jim has a clear xerox and can have copies made at 4¢ per page (finished but still-unread copy). There are 110 pages. I also have a copy, but not with such xeroxing facilities. I have I think two spare carbons. I can lend you one, if you want to copy it after reading the draft. K', holding onto them in the remote event any interest eventuates.

Sincerely,