10/27/71

Dear Gary,

Ned phoned me last night with what pretty clearly is, regardless of how guised or how explained to himself, a withdrawal of his offer. It would have been a considerable disappointment at any time but with what it just followed and at the end of a day that was about an hour and a half short of 24 of work, it came particularly hard. Our conversation finished just before the Cito broadcast. I'd stayed up only to catch Cronkite's interview with him, but I could pay attention to little of it.

Exactly what is bugging him I don't really understand, but it seems to have to do with an immaturity partly attributed to you, assessment of blame more than I have. To me, this means more than can be done responsibly. Not only now but for the forseeable future. More, as I understand or misunderstand it, the end, if achieved, would be counterproductive in, at the very least, distorting focus.

However, the purpose of his hasty note when I feel I can take the time better than I'll be able to after Ned has been here for a day and I am that much further behind in other and very pressing things, is to give you two cautions, or, to put it another way, to ask you to examine two things you have done recently that I think you should not have. You do not do things in an vacuum and these two things affected others.

In this case, you have not yet received and read your copy of the last part of the book, so you were making a recommendation about something of which you know nothing. How could you without understanding that or at least having given it a hasty reading?

When only because we had this joint project I sent Ned a copy of my letter to Cyril, he consulted you, you recommended that he consult Sylvia, which he did. What basis did you have for considering that Sylvia could give him answers? As it happened, she couldn't, for she doesn't understand what is involved yet. In my long subsequent conversation with her I avoided prejudicing her and asked her to think independently. I have not heard from her and I have not written her. But I have several independent assessments of my own political judgement: my Senator's was immediate and prompt, and that os his administrative assistant exactly coincided. Sylvia is, without doubt, brilliant and incorruptible. But hse is not omniscient and she is, tragcially for all of us, given her enormous gifts, latched to the past and her won and I regret to say unchanged concepts. If this is neither criticism nor adverse comment on her, and it is not and is not intended as either, for my respect for her is great, it is fact. How properly, if you had doubts, don't you think you should have begun with me? Or if Ned didn't see this on his own, don't you think you should have suggested that to him? The net result was to accomplish nothing but the waste of time for two people who have none to waste, Jim and me, to trouble us both, to waste some for Ned and perhaps confuse him, and to waste money we either do not have or can put to better purposes. I am with this suggesting that it is time for you to reassess your understand, to try and understand the condition of your knowledge as of the state of our collective knowledge today before you do or recommend things on which others will act and by which still others will be involved. The uncongenial role of our fireman, which has been mine simply because nobody else could or would fill it, has been the single most costly and most destructive thing I've had to cope with. If others haven't grasped what should have been obvious, the least I think I should expect from those like you who have understood this in the past is no needless added burden. There is not, never was, any doubt of the possibility of the hazard I see. This is not to say that it is inevitable. Anyoe who needs a picture drawn is a political infant. The sole question is of probability, and that is one that can't be risked by serious people, for there are no odds long enough to justify the risk when the only possible gain is in public relations. Gotta quit. One last word. We have lived with so many futilities, I'd prefer not to have hopes raised as with this Ned project if they are later to be dashed, with or without the considerable rush work required, but conditions later to be imposed. We are too old, too tired, to overloaded for more of this. Intent is not relevant, only result. Best regards,

10/19/71

Gary, Ned and nobody else, please,

Gary has been concerned about my health. My nerves, basis, I suppose. But the rest, if the annual checkup is dependable, better than good. I had the last part today, the procto. The doctor, rather than saying okay, said very good. Now I would suppose such an examination is either good or not good, but I gather from what he said that either he was trying to make me feel good or the part of the canal he examined is in better than average shape, whatever that is. I have had a procto every year with some doctors, every other with this one since a test for occult blood. I delivered the sample for that today, but all the other lab work has been completed.

The doctor went out of his way to say that, considering the kind of life I lead, I'm in good shape.

He also began with another prostate examination, this one with more palpation than that of the physical. There is what seems to be an inconsistency, but I didn't both to inquire on the theory that is his business and on the basis I trust him. He finally told me when I raised the question at the time of the physical that there is some prostate enlargement, but today, for whatever reason, he volunteered that despite the enlargement, I have the gland of a 30-year-old. But if you remember that blackout that had me concerned, I had been notice a difference in urniation before then and remember the doctor who then gave me the new checkup asking me if it pained me to urinate. I told him it didn't but that I had noticed that the rate of flow and the beginning were both slower. I suppose that he then had noted some eblargement. Ever so imperceptible, it is gradually deteriorating, if that is the word. If I can't go to the bathroom for a while, the rate of flow at the beginning is barely a trickle. But whatever this is, it apparently is not bad for at this physical several weeks ago the doctor told me there was the enlargement but it is not, I've forgotten the phrase but I think he said acute prostatis. That is the only thing that showed up, and the exam included an EKG. Everything else is at least normal. However, I must confess that until I put it from my mind, as I am reasonable certain the accumulating new pressures will help accomplish, I find it strange that in size my prostate is that of a 30-year-old (and it think he said rather small for a man of my age) and at the same time enlarged.

Physcially, then, I'm okay, and thanks for the interest.

Now, for other reasons I won't go into now, I had arranged for Jim Lesar to meet me there. I had some things for him including a new letter from Ray and my response. We got to talking, and as we rambled I got onto Bob Smith's belated interest in the medical evidence, a fact he disclosed to me several months ago when he started discussing his work on it. Today Jim confirmed that part of his reason was to help Cyril. Now I am aware that this could have been Bud's or Bob's unilateral concept of how to help Cyril. Were it, however, there should have been a beginning with me, for long ago I loaned Bud both existing parts of PM. We never cracked them. He was within N.O, when I made the arrangements for Louis to have the use of the stuff they used with Finck in return for xeroxing them for me so I could copyright. He knows in some detail of my work in this area. Therefore, except that everything about the CIA is strange, and that I also acknowledge, it seems to me not the normal thing for them to be duplicating what they know I have exhausted to help Cyril. And they know I have gone much further.

There are many areas upon which Bob could have decided to concentrate. Certainly the medical evidence is a logical one. But when he knows all the work I've done on it, with all the things to be done and not done he duplicates? And to help Cyril? I ask questions. I don't give answers, for I don't know them. But it makes little sense to me. Therefore, I merely report it.

Couldn't get the Archives photog. by phone until the time I had to leave.

Hastily,