

Howard, yesterday I had a brown envelope and a letter from you. I have had time to read neither. Could have last night, but emotional exhaustion and the new news prevented it. However, Lil read the letter to me as we left the post office early in the a.m., so I remember enough. Of these things, one is now important, when you come. The weekend of the 9th is better. We are having a buff pair for Thanksgiving. I am going to Bud's thing after all, as I think I've explained. Now I'll have to see the criminalist. I have no time now for long explanations, but we lost the seemingly perfect case for a number of reasons that may exculpate Bud but I think don't, especially the terror the present state of the land instills in the judges. The points fixed upon, while legally and judicially wrong, are precisely those I'd been insisting be argued vigorously from the first, with Bud's agreement and subsequent failure ever to do it. Yesterday he sent Jim up with what amounts to an ultimatum and I sent him back loaded for bear. Jim then went out and did a very simple thing that I'd thought he'd done that in context (including that he has no investigating experience) is brilliant and we have stuff I won't talk about now in corruption, so sensational we have to be cautious even in talking about it. And it sure synergizes what I've been insisting on arguing on perjury and subornation. So, I've written him, carbon enclosed. Bud continues to be incredible. There is nothing he hasn't fucked up. The summary judgement in the first case I got by persuading Jim and Bill to do what I wanted done when Bud was away. The more impressive my record of being right, the more he gets antagonistic and the more urgently he needs something he can claim as his own. He is not content to make himself a name by doing what others want him to do. On the other hand, he is quite content to file the work of others under his name, as he has done with the "Ray" work, all of which was Jim's and mine. So, now that even he can't avoid the knowledge that he did this perfect case in, he insists on crippling himself before the Supreme Court by having too many points to argue when I have come up with a mechanism that lets the essential still get in the appeals court record. It is over this that he sent the polite ultimatum.... Jim and I have talked to others about amicus briefs. I spoke to one in ACLU in May. After the decision, I asked Jim to speak to him again and to some Nader people. But Bud now tells me that he has several people who want to file amicus briefs. But he had ever comprehended the full ramifications of this case he'd have had a record number wanting to be amicus! I don't think he understands the full ramifications of the decision yet. I think Jim sees more of this now that we had a chance to talk yesterday. It was interrupted by a call from an old friend, a top p.r. man who is flack for Executive Action. He wanted me to help, wanted me to attend private showings, etc., and I told him straight out, as friends do. He understood. Glad Jim was here to hear my end because God knows what will get around if he speaks to the producer, who is a friend of his. It happens that I had just gotten a sickening promo, in his territory and not shown him. I sent it in with Jim, who was also sickened by it. It turned the press off, unless it turns some on the wrong way. My copy came from the Post. Another Open the Archives march, by only those with movies and books now to be sold. Executive Action opens in Washington on the 14th. When I can see it free I'm not going.... This friend is in his beliefs on our side. He spoke to the v.p. of one of the largest publishing houses for me in 1965 and got the pitch quickly. He also tried to speak for me on the hill... If Jim delivers the handbill in person, I hope he calls me first because this guy can give us sage counsel on the present situation, which really headed up after his call, and I'd like Jim to try to raise the question in his day that is so successful he has to have a secret office away from his official office so he can get work done, he is that good. He's all the top movie houses and many others, including the parent of Bantam and Grosset. McEraw Hill I know, too. If he had had his way I'd have gone around with my own live geese to promo the movie he flacked, Father Goose. I had started to write a book Father Goose, and entirely different one, and I loused it up. One of two books that could have been excellent on geese that I really did lousy work on. HW 11/1.73. Do, my relations with this guy are such that if he sees anything I should see, despite his obligations, he'll trust my discretion and send it.