

Dear Paul,

3/9/91

It was thoughtful of you to phone yesterday. I do appreciate it. I also express my respect for your demonstration of principle and concern reflected in your speaking to Stone about me knowing that I had written him a letter he'd not like. I fear it will cost you what chance you had for a part.

I thought of your call for some time after we finished speaking and of the concern you reflected for the medium of which you and your wife are part being honest and responsible in what this very effective medium takes to the people, and I was reminded of my past in connection with some in it who suffered for their being decent citizens many years ago. (I'll be 78 in 30 days and I'm talking about what is probably before you and your wife were born.) I'll return to this briefly and will later in more detail if either of you would like.)

I've not written Nelson because I do not want to add to his burdens or troubles. I did tell Hood College's lawyer after the college sent him the threatening letter it got from poor Roger Feinman who, as I told you, I'd known as a truly fine man for so many years. In my effort to solve a real, a very serious problem for Greg I got the college involved in a mess that is also going to be costly. When Greg phoned me from New York and appeared to be desperate for a place to store Meagher's papers I arranged for their temporary storage at Hood's library. This was a fine and generous and unselfish act on the college's part because it was then and still is so lacking in space it had to begin construction of a new library. It not once pressed Greg to keep his word, that he needed the space for only six months or less. It also made no effort to influence his decision on the permanent deposit. All at the college adhere to recognized principles of scholarship. As a reflection of this I tell you that Sam ~~Adams~~ Adams did ~~the~~ work on the very controversial CBS Westmoreland special at Hood's library. It also had designated a large area in the new library building for the deposit of assassinations records beginning with mine. Students there have been using mine for years and have evolved some fine papers. And learn much and are excited by working in original materials. Some have also had paying jobs searching my 60 file cabinets and innumerable boxes of records for others. Right now an old friend of mine is paying for one to assist me because I am limited in my use of stairs and may not stand still and thus am pretty much denied access to my own records. This has enabled me to return to work on a book I had to lay aside years ago and is this young woman thrilled by what she is doing! So much so that she has already arranged for a friend to take over at the end of the school year, when she goes home. I'm wandering but I want you to know in the event that Nelson is in any way troubled. I think he may be from something you told me, that you understand that Greg did stipulate the deposit at Hood. I think that learning of this, as he could have from a friend who was out there two weeks before Greg killed himself and who Feinman told me would be doing further checking for him because he has access to a toll-free phone. So, if any of this sad business has made its way back to Nelson and if he wants copies of my correspondence on this with Feinman going back to Meagher's death, I'll make them and send them to him. Whatever causes it, Feinman is not in contact with reality and I'm concerned about that because his conduct is so unlike what I'd have expected of the fine man I thought I knew so well.

Before a brief return to the dim past, if you and your wife are ever near here I hope you can stop off so I may indicate to her what may in the future be of interest to her that will be available to her. Free access Hood not only has assured but it also plans to make the records available to other institutions by modern technical means I do not understand.

You are probably too young to remember the Senate investigation of the movie industry in the early days of World War II. I broke it up. Senate, Gerald Nye, for whom my wife had worked, was alleging that the movie industry was trying to get us into World War II. This was possible for me because I'd helped promote a movie he misused, Confessions of a Nazi Spy, as I recall the title, starring Edward G. Robinson. I'd been an investigator for and the editor of the Senate Civil Liberties Committee. When the House Un-Americans went after those who got to be known as The Hollywood Ten, a man who'd also been an investigator for

that committee, brought one of the ^{men} to my home to obtain from me what they could use in defending themselves. He knew that those native nazis had come after me when they learned I was researching a book on them and had already been a source for magazine articles exposing them. In fact, to be Brief in a very long story, when they tried to get me indicted I got their agent indicted and had so sold a case against him that Dies had to publicly enter a plea for him. Dies was the committee's chairman. So his agent got a suspended sentence for the two felonies I proved. It happens that the one of the Ten who came to see me and left with the basis for my book, including a copy of each and every expense account the ^{un}Americans had filed, turned out to be the sink in their midst, Edward Dmytryk. Needless to say, I got none of that rich material back. Dmytryk, when I located him, claims to have no recollection at all. Of course he lied. He can't not recall that matter, the most dramatic in his life.

But the others, and many along with them, suffered much for their devotion to decency and to democratic principles, as I was reminded in thinking of your call.

I do appreciate offers of cassettes of shows your wife produced and my wife will appreciate the loan of any she or you think would interest her. She watches the tube when I'm ~~asleep~~ asleep because I am always up early, this ^{morning} ~~morning~~ at 3:30. I've been working for two hours now. I sleep well but when I'm rested my mind gets me up because there is so much I want to do for which I'll not now have time. My present first priority is retrieving and organizing what another may use to complete this book if I am not able to. There is a richness you can't begin to imagine in these about a third of a million once-withheld pages. and thanks for thinking of this. My wife, who ought have quit doing it, still does tax work. But in five weeks that will be over and I'm sure she'll welcome being able to see what your wife produced.

If you can't find Gerard (Chip) Selby's Reasonable Doubt and want to see it, please let me know and I'll give you a cassette. He is a fine young man and I hope he is a success out there. As I told you, it was his master's thesis and he won CINE's Golden Eagle award with it. And he did it all all by himself, with the university's poorest equipment because the profs had a sneering attitude toward his project.

Many thanks and best to you both,

Harold

Afterthought: if you or any others out there have any personal or oral-history interest in the Hollywood past to which I refer above, feel free to question me by phone and tape it. The Ten included some of our finest people who'd done some wonderful work. If your wife has not read Dalton Trumbo's The Remarkable Andrew and can still get a copy, I urge her to read it and consider whether it could go today. Many years ago a movie was made of it. We loaned our copy and did not get it back.

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