

6/28/69

Dear Ian,

Many thanks for the Rowan column, which I hadn't seen.

I fear I disagree with your hope that the fight continues. These are capons pretending they are old fighting cocks.

I phoned both Rowan and Agronsky offering help. Neither has phoned back after more than a week. I've been away several days and do not know what, if anything, they have aired. I'd like to hope much.

You will find, when this is over, that the reason the black leadership is so totally silent (in some cases a genuine belief and in other a pretense) is their fear Hoover will then leak the nasty stuff, as he sees it, he picked up with his bug. I saw one of them in New York this past week and he confirmed it. He is one of the more conservative ones.

It hasn't been secret in months. Rowan has alluded to it on TV, as have Pearson and Anderson in a "True" piece earlier this year.

They haven't learned the one thing you cannot do with a blackmailer is accede to his blackmail.

If they had really fought back, with the material available, especially after the unpredictable manhood, so late in asserting itself, by both Clark and Katzenbach, they could have done something.

Should you like to do a story on this, phone me. I know the general outlines of what is alleged against King - a girl friend and emotionalism when drunk - no business of anyone but him and two women. I may just pull the plug on these supersexless Feebees in Coup if I go into this. I worked with them for months some years ago. Their indulgences were less private than those in a low-class whorehouse. Bobby had the same hangup, but not Jack.

Best to you both, and again thanks.

Sincerely,