

Dear Jim,

8/16/74

The emotions you describe ~~xxx~~ in your 8/11 are those I have felt too often. I hope that with you they are as transitory as they are with me. They linger longer in Lil. With me other work always takes hold of the mind, keeps it occupied, and soon enough the discouragement is gone, Or at least first subdued for a while and then goes.

I have been certain there would be some such development from the time he released his tape transcripts. I did not expect it as soon as it came but with the Supreme Court decision I knew it had to be close, hence I asked Howard to come help with what is now called Whitewash IV on the phone I could complete the draft of The Unimpeachment before it did happen. Missed by a couple of chapters and now I have not yet been able to return to it, what I'd feared.

Your comments on what will happen have been confirmed. I'll be adding a short footnote in the passages about Ford's misuse of the transcript including a few such stupidities.

I was busy writing when GL made his farewell address that had not been included in the morning news items. I'd like a dub of the tape, thanks. I plan to ask for the official texts of his last couple and Ford's first. But I also want to hear that one. I think it is possible that with the need for a new conclusion to The Unimpeachment I may want to use the tape, contents and impressions. You describe my reactions to the short excerpts on the evening TV news perfectly. And then the rolling out of the red carpet after that! The whole helicopter deal and AF! yet! Pretentious to the end. How sick!

The reaction I got in New York confirms your comment on the prospects of The Unimpeachment. I have two apprehensions: I have to do much with WWIV, which has great topicality and is close to printing; and the amount of editing I'll have to do before Lil can begin to retype once I complete is in itself depressing. I suppose I really can't write any more without a mechanism for generating more adrenalin and without getting release from the anger that pours onto paper. And it all has to come out. In addition, as in part can be attributed to the breaking-story problem, with materials as complicated and extensive, there is always the question of organization. And there were so ~~xxx~~ many interruptions! Keeping up was in itself a hindrance to concentration. I worked hard, got much on paper, am proud that developments require the change of no single word or thought or selection of fact, but the editing problems are serious. Under any circumstances they would require another mind and Lil has never been able to do this. She can see what is wrong with individual sentences and occasionally with grafts - always with my original spelling - but not with the overall. I have been aware of this for years but haven't seen any possible solution, meaning one that I can have any influence on, except reduction in the amount of what I do. With the publishing prejudice apparent, I chose to get as much as possible on paper for future possible values and uses. Thus also the interest in an archival home in the future.

A major intrusion into a major success has been the two senior lawyers in the Ray case. Livingston is insane, figuratively or literally, and Fensterwald unpredictable and untrustworthy. Had it not been for Lesar, who is great, I'd have chucked it long ago. We are close to success. We have the state climbing the wall and we look forward to the ceiling crawl. The situation is delectable because of the difference in the strength of forces and what our success means to power, but we are doing better than we could have expected at the outset. I'll have a memo on yesterday's moves. The various purposes of the hasty letter to the judge will at least in part be apparent. Lesar is filing an affidavit, two pages of which I read yesterday and parts of which I cooled, leaving the heat in mine. To anticipate the memo, I met Haile yesterday. With what he had said of me in his crazy notion that was so Nixonian I told Bud I'd be there and give him a choice of losing teeth in Washington or swallowing them later in Memphis. I offered myself for taped questioning. He stalled and then declined. I offered then to go to Memphis for it. He'll have trouble if there comes an issue over his notion or my strong letter.

I have enough confidence in what my letter will do to tell Bud that I think it is not necessary for me to go to this hearings as he'd asked. He agreed without seeing the

letter. I should have seen and had a long talk with Ray, but I suggested that I go a day earlier and do it. He/they agreed. So I'll be able to see WWIV through. Lil is close to the end of carding the index, which means she'll be typing it as soon as I edit from the cards, then I'll know how much space I have to fill and I'll fill it and then we'll shoot the film. Yesterday I found that the artist accepted my ideas for a cover. He'll get to it, he says and hopes, in a week. By then we should have all else ready. And I started doing other things that need doing. I've bypassed the national desk at the Post on an easy dodge. I'm a Marylander, the underground format can always be news, the new Maryland editor is a friend who I've befriended. He's briefed him on the content and he will decide which of his staff is best suited for the story and will send him up in advance to prepare from the one xerox I have. I've had to spend about \$150 in xeroxing on this project. It is John Hanrahan, who knows how I work for his experience with the Jaworski story the national desk killed after he was here and went over my files and took what he wanted.

(Something is cooking on MG stories. As I left I stopped briefly to speak to a secretary who was a girlfriend of Wayne Chastain. While we spoke I saw Bradley and Bernstein in conference at Woodward's desk.)

I am pleased to find that disappointments do not interfere with my functioning. The Penthouse meeting was not easy because I had to be real cool and contained in the face of unintended insult, stupidity and unimaginativeness. I had to reject their offer but I could not outright because Lesar had to be able to reach his own decision. As soon as I left, and I mean in the lobby where there was a pay phone, I started my second line. I have the largest NYC area wholesalers order for a minimal 200 copies, so he'll have a stock. I went to see him- and this meant a long hot walk because of a subway fire and we were delayed because we were on the way to the train- and made a trade-deal arrangement for an ad in his catalogue that gets mailed weekly to 2,500 stores. I learned from him, from a total stranger among his employees, of a new DC wholesaler so I can cover Washington, and in the course of stillyaaling for a couple of hours at Penthouse, without that character realizing it, I was able to pick his mind on new developments in the chain bookstores so - know which of those I've dealt with can find the time to write.

Yesterday, before I awakened Lesar, I had a long meeting with the "ador law people, which was helpful. and they now have an idea of how I work and the content of what I can come up with. Only second meeting but friendly, not at all like they first told Lesar, get yourself a new client. Gotta wake 'em, who works today. Sorry for the typos. Have now to return to WWIV and picking up corrections that fell off in xeroxing. Best,