

4/21/70

Dear Art,

Sorry we didn't get back in touch sooner, for John is supposed to be here this weekend, after a year of talking about it, and we have too much work to do. He acted as my agent in a deal, then left for a year abroad, during which time no one was looking out for my interest and I got beat out a lot of money. I started negotiation on one aspect, a small fraction, got an agreement that has been stalled for a year, then these crooks screwed me out of half of that. I think, when we work this over, the purpose of John's coming, we can lean hard enough to get this part back. With almost \$40,000 in debts from the "scavenging" I've been doing for six years, we need it urgently. So, we have to work.

Sorry I didn't know you were coming for the Detrick story for there is one everybody is missing. Thinking is sterile here. There is no imagination. I tried to interest the local paper, for example, in what to me was the minimum necessity before the whole mess was raised in Congress. Now what I had in mind is generally agreed to, after a heavy cut which means a real blow to the local economy. But, there can be a real TV story told, one that could make a fine, interesting "special", more than just a long film sequence. I cannot give you the details, but I can give you the plot. So, when you come, besides visiting, leave yourself some time for us to beat our gums.

If it is soon, like say Sunday after the coming one, bring a camera with color film. With luck and patience, we may get your girls sitting with me and feeding real, genuine wild wild ducks coming up to us to be fed. They should like it and I think you will like the picture.

When the suit comes to trial (and this is but the first of a series) is largely out of my hands. I'm ready now. There is much more to it than meets the eye, though that is more than enough. Give yourself time for this and the wildest, most improbable story you will have heard for some time. What a self-indictment by the Mitchell-Kleindienst (appropriate name)-Rolapp cabal. I think you'd get a hell of a story before the suit, from privileged papers I have and have never put on camera. But, we've asked for immediate trial and the government is stalling. Not because they are confident. And my next suit will have a real, tough Maryland angle. I'm in the last stages of "exhausting" my "administrative remedies", non-existent but specified by the law. Again, because I trust you, I think you should get backgrounded.

John is at Columbia, taking a doctorate in lit. He lives at 85 Fourth Ave., NYC, phone 254-4238.

There is a delicate mission in which I think not even you could succeed I wish you'd undertake for me. I have the released summary of the FBI report to the State Police on the Rep Brown bombings. I'd like to study the full reports. I mean this literally, not to steal them for a magazine piece or anything like that. I do want to study them. See if they'll let you borrow a copy so you can study it, make a copy for me, and even though this would not be the only possible source, I will not release it. I do not do magazine pieces. All my work now is pretty technical, non-commercial. I want to study the reports on both bombings closely, put them aside and go over them again in a couple of months. I'll tell you what I seek and expect to find when you are here and I'll also tip you off to a speciality you may want to draw upon for good material in the future, in connection with special reporting from time to time. I'm working with some people near you, on extremists. Best regards,

WBAL-TV TELEVISION 11<sup>28</sup> BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21211 PHONE (301) 467-3000  
April 20, 1970

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Dear Harold,

I figured you were giving me hell and I guess I was right. I probably deserved it, too. Deep in the recesses of my mind I seem to recall something about phone calls from you while I was at the Evening Sun. But, as you know, that was months ago. If you phoned me during the strike, I was not there, of course.

I was up to Fort Detrick last September and did a story on a farmer named John Hall who lost much of his herd of milk cows and couldn't figure out why. He suspected that something from Detrick going into the river caused the deaths. But, the army denied it. To this day nobody knows what happened.

The Evening Sun is having problems, I understand, and feels lucky just to get a paper out much less have anything worth while in it. The paper is paying now for its long-standing policy of penny-pinching and living on its reputation. Now, all or most of its good reporters have gone by-by.

You said you saw John Friedman but you didn't say where. Give me an idea where I can reach him.

Your suit sounds interesting. Let me know when trial time comes.

Speaking of Jessup, I am planning a documentary on the Maryland Penitentiary and may get into the House of Correction.

I may take you up on your kind offer to visit you. My daughter, Abigail, would love your wild friends, and so would Carrie Jayne, my next in line.

Sincerely, -

  
Art Geiselman