

As I think you realize from my call prior to Nixon's release of his version of his tapes, I felt a change and had decided to adapt to it. While I write for a different purpose, let me add that I have what in its present form is an unacceptable proposal to do another underground book, this one on Watergate. And I have decided on how to go about it and have begun it. It will be the opposite of my usual way. I am almost finished an opening that will do no more than prepare for what is to follow, and what is to follow is the "secret" evidence I have, of which only that which is ~~public but raise~~ ^{public but raise} will be part.

I am writing the one book that will be largely entirely new and to a rather extensive degree suppressed evidence, which I would plan to reproduce in facsimile, or evidence I developed when others, including officials, actually refused to. Or, in my opinion, so hot a book no commercial publisher would do it as an original. For the moment, if the proposal I have is not made acceptable, I'm not exploring raising the money for it.

But I am really writing a book only a little of which will have appeared in public in any form.

I am almost finished with this opening and as soon as I feel better and have some uninterrupted time I will outline the rest.

"Feel better" refers to two minor recent problems, only one of which lingers. First I appear to have pulled a muscle in the chest where I didn't know there was one. Then an old inner-ear problem, never really diagnosed, returned, impairing my sense of balance and making me dizzy under some circumstances. I guess that combined with other problems they have wearied me as I have never been before. But the tests are all good. By heart, the doctor says, still beats like that of a young athlete. (I find this not inconsistent with other youthful attributes not common when one is 51.)

When Nixon made his tapes speech I immediately wrote and asked the White House for a press copy. When it was published that the Government Printing Office was selling them, I immediately sent an order and a check. Even though I assumed Bantam would do a special, as it has. This was not -- repeat NOT -- for my present writing. It was for two other purposes, one of which is the purpose of this letter. For the slight use I will make of these transcripts in the present writing, what is in the papers is adequate.

I will be wanting four or five copies of a smaller and more convenient edition for what I have in mind, if I can arrange it.

I have been working with some college women recently. I do not know the summer plans any of them has, except that two who are older, married women, plan doing some work for me and thus are eliminated from this project.

There are some things I will want collected and arranged for historical purposes.

But I think a book that could go crazy is THE SAYINGS OF CHAIRMAN RICHARD. A relatively small book that I think would originally be more attractive as facsimile reproductions of parts of these transcripts. With a red binding, too.

I think the time has also come for ridicule, that it can be a powerful political weapon, and can be commercial as hell.

In fact, for an interest, I'd be willing to let others do it, if you know anyone who might be interested.

If it were desired to do a bracketing job, that is, what the tapes transcripts say compared with the reality, I have all the files that are needed, including all his public statements and all those made in his name since his ~~stom~~troopers were caught.

I prefer to devote my personal efforts to what I think others do not permit themselves to see or will not permit themselves to do and then to worry about getting it out.

Because of the limitations imposed upon me and the ever-present problems I can't forecast when I'll have a draft ~~later~~ ^{done}. Time was when I'd have said 2-3 weeks. But I think that with no exceptional occurrences and subject to going back over the work and adding direct quotes and footnotes, I'll have an unedited draft in not more than a month.

I'm sorry you can't do anything about it and that it is not possible for you to be here to have a better idea of the content.

Best regards.