

Dear Js,

1/17/72

Because we enjoy your letters much and benefit from some of the mature suggestions, which I get from no others with maturity and experience upon which they can draw, I will make no further response to the enclosures with yours of the 11th, which actually got here three days ago. They are all helpful and interesting, esp. the memo on Rand. I presume you will watch that perhaps significant and certainly fascinating item. I think, on the basis of what would be worth the trouble, that it is of J's, not R's, unless there is a chance he used the plural without detection.

I have been snowed under with ~~lots~~ what I've been trying to do with the Lattimer scandal, think I've sent you most of it to date, if not all, had to do it too fast, and we've had company almost daily now since Xmas, which is a serious impediment to my own progress. The one who just left, a fine 40ish woman reporter the best sport on the Kaplan-Vidal case, was good for us because once she had a chance to relax and feel us out and feel at home her bubbly character was without restraint and her delicious and infectuous humor was good for us in between periods of work. I had things she didn't on that case and gave it to her, including some of your clips. I'll pick them up when I see the friend who will be making the copies for her for me later this week. Confidentially, typically those highly-pincipled people of her period with Ra, parts have robbed her and gotten a sizable advance on a book of which they are now genuinely sick. They salbe themselves by kindness to her in the book. and she has two kinds to raise without the help of a separated (alcoholic) husband while trying to make a living. You have heard me say sometimes I wish I had more ebenimes and fewer "friends". I think she suffers the affliction of some "friends", too.

Je-no need to return Martha tape. I've found Excelsior and will send separately. Lil read as soon as I did, smiled broadly, which she has felt little occasion to do lately, and asys thanks. For the pantd as for the suggestions.

Retrieval is always a problem, especially for me because I have had to, or felt I had do, orient my own filing around projected use, and that nobody can duplicate. I think in most cases the things are what I think might inform of amuse you or of sucha character where you might not be unwilling to say you goofed on that one, or what I might want someone else to have in case. But I have no idea how to answer this wise anticipation.

What Jim says about Lattimer and the attention tends to confirm the belief that has been gwoing on me, that we missed a golden opportunity. I won't burden you with my ideas on why, but I don't hide my increasing disgust with the self-conceived queens ans kings of the past who do little but apologize and pontificate and throttle work by intrusions in that which they no ,onger undertand, make needless problems, not, I think, from devotion to the cause anymore but from a combination of causes, guilt feelings, ambitions healousies (often to the younger attributed to me, as a letter I've just answered from one of whom I've grown quit. find said - and I asked him of whom he felt I might consider I had cause to feel jealous), ehos (which we all have, but here the ego-tripping has been attributed to me too) . What I do genuinely fear that if this keeps up, I may decided that survival demands what could be commercial, a thorough exposure. I hate to think of even thinking about it. And I hate having to contend with it, as I often do with much more delicacy than my normally blunt letters would lead you to believe, for I do the other way vocally. I've very glad you raised the question of the significance of the year. I was aware of it and wondered if this could be it. It falls down in one respect and the one that caused me to abandon it because I can find no candidate willing to use it. I know of but one instance in which one (McG) said that were he elected, he thinks there should eb a new investigation. But that only when oressed by informed kids on a distant campus and with no press. They have all refused. At one time or another I've approached all the "loberal" ones. Even when freidds in the press did it and they said they'd sure have to invite me in, it never happened. If I wanted to be real sinister, I'd suggest a possible farout possibility is to quiet Teddy. Lattime : you'll be seeing refs to what I have on him. If

reading the enclosed you have anything to which I haven't referred, I'd appreciate copies. If I didn't refer to the CNN story of his speech there, I also have it. And the reprint (International Surgeon, I think)....No, I agree with you on the Chron treatment and its significance. I think it is an accurate reflection of what you suggest and more, ennuui with the entire subject, aided and abetted by the outpourings of the butts which does reach enough desks. I have done nothing to respond yet and have only two things planned, one in the hope of feedback, the other in the certainty it will be eavesdropped upon. L's ignorance, as you suggest, is larger than even he realizes, but his politics make this fascinating and I hope a serious embarrassment to those who selected or agreed to him. If the K's rep didn't select, he and they may have some questions after this about those who did. As you will see, by indirection I have made an effort to learn that I do not expect to succeed but do hope gets read....TV analysis simple and persuasive, but I linger with the hope that a teensy-weensy bit was a remnant of principle. Anderson's source may be the spookery, but he has also said it is someone involved who is opposed to policy, which neither qualifies nor disqualifies but tends to persuade me that it is more likely not a spookery spook. You are tight on the trial balloons, but they also includes others than the spookery, even the FBI, a rather frequent one in the past, and DJ, all sorts of unlikelies if his writings about them are to be considered. I am inclined not to agree with the rightist-righteous attitude that this will draw the administration more inward. It may, if your hunch is correct, also be a warning that they should be listened to more. But I think as I have about CIA, that its disagreement is no more than about tactics, that it has taken the lead in fixing wrong policies, which means that if true, unless there has been a major internal overhaul, of which I've seen no sign, this is not too likely. I've explained my belief about the voids in the PPapers and that this and disagreement over what couldn't succeed account for the fair face....Tapes, thanks, I'll be switching to Sony as soon as I use up what I have. No trouble since simply because I've tried each one first. I had detected places in the middle where they hang. I suppose that when I get my older machine back, if it has, as I suspect, a more powerful motor, the thing to do it run each one through it twice to get the tension the way it should be.

If you can send me a copy of the Palo Alto Times story I have someone in LA with the brass to ask, whether or not he gets an answer, and the means of asking why that should be so hushhush and what the hell the taxpayer's buck is being spent that way for. There are a couple on the hill to whom I might well send copies, but not of your note on a memo from me.

Gotta get to the rest of the stack. With all our hearts, our gratitude for what is in and what has come for yours. Best, very best,

11 Jan 72

Have a little pile of notes here to dispose of. Will take them as they come up.

Thank you for the tape of Mme. Mitchell - looking forward to listening to it. I am, particularly, since for some time I've been stuffing stuff into the file about darlin' Martha. Quite useless, but I'm too fascinated to let it go.

Our friend the Spanish teacher is back from her trip and says she's willing to translate at least that part of the Excelsior interview with Chou in which we're most interested. So sometime when you have an emptyish envelope if you'd include it we'll have it here and can ask her at the right moment. I say it that way because she's a rather moody person and it won't do any good to approach her if she's all wrapped up in something else. In any case they have six months' of accumulated mail to take care of.

Pants for Lil didn't cost anything. A couple of months ago I finally bought a Chinese jacket and pants set for myself, pale gold jacket, copper pants which are just the right color for the jacket. Because they were on sale I also bought a pair of black pants. Didn't try them on at the store and when I did at home, found they were the wrong kind of satin for the jacket - too slick and shiny - although this didn't seem so in the hand in the store. Also I found the top went beautifully with a skirt I already had. Tell Lil to try - if she hasn't already - a straight skirt with her jackets; she might be surprised at how well they go together. That's what I wore when we had our annual Christmas dinner with some very good friends and ~~z~~ they were so pleased I got two nice smacky kisses from a gentleman to whom I am not married.

So I have a pair of pants and a skirt and an extra pair of pants I know I will not wear - and a letter from you with Lil's measurements. Simple, no? SHE was very accomodating and most willingly made the exchange, almost eagerly. I think it hurt her Chinese sense of frugality to have anything hanging in a closet not doing anyone any good. So couldn't we just consider it part of the thank-you package? This was a neat little transaction which pleased everyone at this end and we hope it will at your end, too.

Please tell Lil not to bother with any thank-you note, especially with her rugged schedule. We know from what you've said that she was pleased and that was all we wanted.

I think I've come to the last item. Now and then in your mailings you include something you might want to retrieve in the future, and we hope that when you do you'll be able to give us a date as a clue. Your file is getting so fat it would take some doing to find what you might want without a date, because it isn't always clear whether you're thinking something out on paper or making a deposit.

That disposes of the last reminder I had here on the desk so this seems to be all for the moment. We should thank you for all the clippings, a great many of which get stashed away, but even those which aren't kept are interesting. It just takes time to get them all read, as you can tell from the late return of one of them in this mailing. There shouldn't be the same delay after this because what we do now is to go through the clippings at the time they come in, putting them aside for when we have time later, but rescuing those which need to be returned.

d.

11 January 1972

Dear Harold:

I think some of the enclosures take care of most of the things you bring up in your mailings of Jan. 7 and 8, but there^{are} a couple of things I can add a word or two on.

First of all, I don't know Earl Caldwell well, having barely met him, but it happened I was able to do him a favor at that time, and if he remembers it^{he} might be willing to discuss the Chavez threat. As I mention in a note appended to an AP story (which I had missed), the local press ignored the story and your mentioning of it was the first I'd heard of it.

We share your dismay about Dr. Lattimer, and a couple of early clippings on it are enclosed. Otherwise, the press has ignored it locally. We also agree with your feeling about the timing in relation to your own work, but are not ~~ad~~together persuaded that this may be the principal factor at work. I may be mistaken, but my feeling is that every now and then the Keepers of the Myth simply feel they have to come up with another blow to the critics in order to demoralize them and refresh public euphoria. I haven't checked, but I would bet anything~~s~~ that these renewed doses coincide with the beginnings of political campaigns, and I seem to have heard somewhere that we are in the early stages of one. The purpose of this is to remind any candidate, in any party, that if ~~he~~ he should be foolish enough to try to exploit political assassinations in a campaign, he will be running into a myth that is not only well established but which is going to be maintained. I say this partly because this is what I think has happened more than once since 1963 but also because of my conviction, which you well know, that any candidate who choose to exploit the assassinations as a political issue would, if he lived long enough, not only be tapping one of the deepest of all political wellsprings but also would encounter drastic opposition. Too many have a stake in the myth to allow it to be taken from them.

As for Dr. Lattimer, he showed in his early writings for the AMA and so on (copies of which we have, thanks) which side he was on, so he was a natural choice. The only question that really remains about him is whether he actually asked to see the evidence or whether someone suggested it to him. Your remarks about Burke Marshall's stated position on this whole question a few months before serves only to renew the suspicion we have entertained for some time about him, although this can be only a preliminary impression at this stage. The most charitable interpretation is that he was not consulted, or, if he was consulted, was overridden.

Perhaps we are being over-optimistic about Dr. Lattimer, but I think the fact that the Chronicle locally ignored his latest findings may be a fairly accurate index to the importance of his being allowed to see the evidence. The Chronicle has someone high in its policy-making -- who, I don't know -- who is a determined keeper of the myth. It is not like the Chronicle to ignore Lattimer if they think what he says is important.

It also seems to us that the medical profession itself is unlikely to pay too much attention to the pontificating of an urologist on a subject properly reserved for pathologists and ballistics experts and specialists in forensic medicine. There's another factor here that any doctor should realize, and that is that as head of a department of urology in a large hospital like Presbyterian, Dr. Lattimer cannot possibly have kept up with the literature in fields so widely divergent from his own. For 10 years Jenifer was secretary to the head of the department of surgery at the Peking Union Medical College. Her boss was an extremely competent surgeon, a hard-working man, and it was all he could do to try to keep up with the literature in his own field, let alone wander off into others. That was a teaching hospital, although a small one compared with Presbyterian, but if Presbyterian is also a teaching hospital, then the possibility that Dr. Lattimer has been able to make himself expert in fields other than urology is remote indeed. The volume of the literature that has to be kept up with has increased greatly, not diminished, in 30 years.

In any case, we thoroughly understand your feelings and your inclination to isolate yourself from others, something you have discussed before, but don't feel /we are well enough informed to try to advise you what to do.

There's one other thing that I'd like to say a bit about, and that is the phenomenon of the TV industry suddenly standing up for its rights, backing Jack Anderson's disclosures, and openly criticizing the Nixon administration. In the first place, there are only three networks. The industry is more compact in that respect than any other segment of the media, therefore more readily articulate. Tremendous money is involved, so decisions perhaps are required more immediately. And for another thing, TV -- and radio, too, of course -- are subject to FCC regulations which gives the government more leverage than against any other segment of the media. In other words, TV apparently decided that a stand had to be made and was able to get together and do something about it. Perhaps Anderson just came in handy. If it hadn't been he, something else could have been used.

Perhaps the relative immediacy of responsibility to the FCC makes TV somewhat more responsive, but it seemed here that the press gave Anderson surprising play. As you mention, not only the Washington Post used his stuff; so did the New York Times, the AP picked it up, and a conservative rag like the States-Item gave it full play, as did the local SF Chronicle, which, like the S-I, is an Anderson subscriber. Even the Examiner, which is not, used quite a lot.

What interests me is where Anderson got it. I gather you agree with us that it may be more than coincidence that the CIA came off best in the Pentagon Papers. In this connection, it may be recalled that Anderson's assistant, Les Whitten, is a former Hearst man who arranged for Gordon Novel's lie detector test when he turned up, a fugitive from Garrison's subpoena efforts, at McLean, Va. We think we have spotted earlier examples where Anderson's column has been used to float trial balloons from that same neighborhood. One rather important question may be: was this simply a disclosure of a ham-handed attempt to play gunboat diplomacy in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean, or was it a more serious warning, that there could be another side to the Pentagon Papers, or a sequel, and that it could affect someone's campaign?

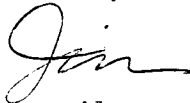
In any event, it appears at this distance to be an interesting commentary on the theory that once again the intelligence services have been unified and brought under control.

Tapes: We haven't yet found time to listen to Martha, but look forward to it, perhaps tomorrow. Thanks for sending it. Do you want it back without erasure, or would you like us to dub on something that might interest you if we happen to run into something? I think of nothing at the moment that could be worth your time that we have on hand.

I gather you have had trouble not only with the record button syndrome, but also with tapes jamming. As nearly as we can tell from three or four years experience and from what the shop tells us, this is caused by tape which stretches unevenly and therefore winds unevenly, running up to one side or the other of its proper alignment and jamming the reel within the cassette. NOthing to be done about this but to run it back and try again. This happens not only with cheap tape but with brands like BASF, the top German brand, and 3M, both of which are as expensive as they come. Sony, with its silicone lubricant, is the only brand we've found which is free of this. As I think I said once before, we use Sony exclusively to record, in order not to miss anything, and dub off on other brands -- those we still have around -- for the record. If tapes jam on playback, that's no tragedy. It's when you're counting on recording something and miss it that causes trouble.

One final note: I've included absolutely every scrap available on the Anthony Russo-Rand Corp. bit. No one present was able to ask him anything further, and the reference received only the barest mention the next day in the Palo Alto Times, and nowhere else. Curious, and under the circumstances I doubt if anyone in LA could find out any more.

We, too, wish you both a good year, with all our heart.



jdw