

1/31/72

dear js, thanks for mailing including jote of 26 and two tapes, both arrived today. times editorisl returned herewith. like the way they put mitchell's best chances for "public service". now that i know you have a POW file, if I spot anything good you may not see, will send....lstattimer: had one of my young freinds do a biblio, whic i'll get and send, my carbon not being clear enough for further copying. he is more than willing to send reprints (c/o college physicians & surgeons of columbia university, 620 w. 168 st., ny 10032). ask for his international surgeons full text, full text, i think a jama piece in 11/66 (i do not think i have the 10/24/66 but unless there is no 11/66 i do not, and his bit on the "similarities" in the oswald and booth assassination. that will blow minds! i have loaned my file to paul vaelntine of the post so can be certain until i get it back. i do not have the article that is the subject of the letters, but i do enclose a spare copy of his precious "response". he is to do another thing for them, but not his "definitive", which appears to have been backburnered by my letter, responded to in today's mail. he now says it will be quite a while, direct quote, before he writes. with such an historic exclusive and that great, radical-right ego yet! i need no more on him for demolition, so unless there os something exceptional in the papers, do not take time. what i seek is anything that can be of behind-scenes use....ex-cuban spy clip probably essentially true, with political slant deleted.... tapes, with all indications of sony superiority and no pressing immediate need for new supply, do not waste time. i had then heard of this new thing and had not then bought those i have to. if it is a better brand, before i have to get or can in any wuantity, you will have heard of it. but thanks...it is still too awkward for me to get into files, so when i do not recall what i was talking about in my 1/8 about the cousin, i cab say only that if the thing comes up again i'll understand. it is somewhat disturbing to me that my memory is failing to this degree...when i can i will try and follow your fascinating rand lead. i may just write and ask later, and then see if i can get what i want under FOI law inquiru...when the hand gets tired i'll listen to the sannes tapes with mitch interest. you jumped to the wrong conclusion on the shiftkey. a painless infection has set in. in fact, i have to date had no real pain. but the jarring os using the hand at all on the mill is uncomfortable and i have a firm order from HER not to. i have an unexpected guest coming late tonight. if he is not unwilling to go fowash. with me tomorrow, i will go to doc. but he is leaving the country permanently, so i will accomodate him. i have been gofing on the countryman's ~~fix~~ faith that without any other symptoms, there is no danger in the infection and i have actually been exoecting it to open its own channel and superate,...by and large, agreement on graham-times. but please note that his sequel, arranged before lattimer saw anything, has not yet appeared. he is obviously unhapoy, as some day you will hear. and those angry letters do sometimes work where quiet ones do not. the archives reacted to my 1/6, which was received at the earliest after lattimer was there 1/7, by an immediate change in the regulations and contract they had just violated. that dated 1/10. so, in retrospect: they were forced to further change in regulations already changed in reaction to my clothing/pix suit; graham has been at least delayed in the dropping of the second shoe (and everyone else with him), and now lattimer has only the most indefinite plans for publication and those far in the future. not too bad a record for an aging one-thumbed berating devil... you are the only other one i know to see the Glorious Leader as I do, and i am in accord with your addenda...hace to leave to get lil soon. on nixon's big peace speech, you are, i think, looking too far away, why not start woth deficit budget, first unfavorable trade balance in so long, other needs plus the possible politifal benefir of making failure seem like success and dedication? timing very bad. it would have been much better closer to election. interpretation: desparation. I earlier suggested he might try to get disinvited, to get the best from both sides (remember how that happened in the oast and he copies?). ...we alone agree on lattimer interpretation. not turned around. failed. except for limited purposes, not national p.r....wecht does not want to realize it, and i fear the hureaucracy may some dat listen to some bright bastard low down. at the top they lack the imagination, are already stereotyped. but does not the use of and reactikn to lattimer fortify an interpretation that they wanted impact in a place all in publishing would see?...great name for the unfounding family, barbie dolls!. will go over other clips later, thanks. I have a stat of the Houts letter only...serious add on ctoage cheese while motor warms:around here they use it as I'd never heard, with syprup, honey, etc. i come from the sour-cream culture, love them together. but Bell peppers? best

H W

26 January 1972

Dear Harold:

To clean up some odds and ends:

Enclosed is the States-Item rewrite, presumably of Grahm's story, on Dr. Lattimer, with the focus on the DA.

Also a story from the Freep which picks up the letter from Fouts to Evelle Younger, and with an interesting affidavit from a Pasadena criminalist.

Before I forget it, some time back you asked us to inquire about the possible superiority of a particular brand of tape for voice recording. Now we cannot find the question among your various letters and notes, and have forgotten the brand name. In any case, it was one I'm sure our dealer does not carry, as it was one I'd never heard of. If you still want this pursued, ~~the~~ give us the brand name again. I think I know what the answer will be -- that there is no material difference in tape sensitivity -- it all depends on your recorder -- how free of internal and external static and other extraneous signals it is -- and on conditions such as the microphone involved. After all, Tape is merely an emulsion or thin film of iron oxide on the tape on which sound is recorded by modulating the magnetic influence on it directly from the sound signal, and as long as the layer of iron particles is there that's about all that you can do from the tape end.

In your letter dated 1/8/72 you ask if we cannot reconsider about the younger member of a certain family, actually a cousin of some kind. The answer has to be no, unfortunately, and I'm sure you will understand the commitment involved, since you do the same sort of thing yourself.

Thanks for sending the Excelsior series. We hope to get the section where Chou talks about our mutual interest translated, and, if and when, you will get a copy.

Also I have a promise of a copy of the Palo Alto Times with the story about Russo and Rand, and hope to send that along soon.

Under separate cover we're returning the tape you sent (and I trust we may not be struck dead for erasing Dear Martha's deathless words) with two things on it. First, there's about five minutes of Eason and what he said about Lattimer. Then we dubbed about an hour and a quarter of a tape that came originally from WBAI last October, an interview with an FBI informer named Sannes who tells just about all there is to tell. Probably little if any will be new to you, but it is an interesting concentration of the story in the guy's own words. For listening to the next time you try to chop off your thumb. (By the way, I find we've forgotten to commiserate on that unfortunate experience, and assume that you're healing nicely ^{now} that you've got hooked on capital letters again. And also by the way, I have come across the usual assortment of systems of typing (newsmen are the weirdest) but you've established a precedent of some kind as the first who works the shift key with his thumb).

Anyway, this ^{Sannes} tape slopped over on to a second cassette (Lafayette) which is in the same package. This was because I read "120-minutes" on the cassette BOX and proceeded on that basis without checking the time on the cassette itself. The Sannes thing takes up another 10 minutes or so on the second cassette. Let me warn you that this Lafayette tape is okay for dubbing where you have control of the situation, but better not try to use it for recording anything live. It has a nasty habit of jamming halfway through.

In your 1/17/72 you discuss the possible ^{relativity} ~~relationship~~ of an election year to the Lattimer phenom, among other things. Before I go into that, let me say that I am much puzzled about Graham and his apparent reasonableness. I suppose it's entirely plausible, but not knowing the guy I have difficulty accepting him in good faith. I must say that we've read his 9Jan72 story in the Sunday Times closely and he appears to be trying to protect himself in many cases. I have to assume that he was told what to do, ~~make~~ pretty much how to do it, and followed orders. Still, I feel uneasy when I think of the dismal record the Times has made for itself in the past eight-plus years, and am inclined to feel that regardless of his personal inclinations the Times is not going to be swayed for a long time to come. I hope I'm wrong.

Now, to get back to the election year thing, I still suspect this to be the likeliest overall reason, always allowing for the possibility that some spot development such as your book could have brought it on a bit sooner. This isn't a good figure of speech, but the situation could be likened to a log jam of possible protests and demands for new investigations, and in this log jam there is a key log, Ted.

As long as he is quiet no other candidate is likely to use the issue in a campaign simply because everyone will say: If the Kennedy's aren't excited, you should be be? Any other candidate therefore simply can't use the issue without risking accusations of playing politics with the grief of a long-suffering family, etc., etc., dragging the ~~at~~ national honor through the mire and being in general the tawdriest kind of politician possible. So as long as Ted is silent, all is well, and this circumstance in fact may be the only life insurance he has and may not last too long. For as things stand now, if he dies of anything except old age there is going to be talk, but this situation could change by 1976 when the temptation to assert himself may become irresistible, or at least certain parties may think it will. My personal opinion is that if he is drafted at Miami and says nothing he will be killed, but that if he is drafted and begins to talk and hits it hard, using the resources available, they would not dare kill him because of the two preceding assassinations. But this is his last chance. Because if he runs in 1976, even without talking, he'll never live to take office.

Somehow in your ~~letter~~ 1/20/72, written after our Glorious Leader's State of the Nation address, I gain the impression that you somehow failed to swoon with delight. You are right, of course, about his being the great imitator. The only thing we would add is that he imitates compulsively, because he knows nothing else to do, being totally empty as a person and convinced that everyone else is go better.

I happen to have seen him several times on television (though I missed this last S of the N) and know exactly what you are talking about. It is only my poor underprivileged wife who has not been able to benefit from the full splendor of the Tube Bobb. However, we have seen Emile de Antonio's movie about him and can enthusiastically recommend it as a faithful presentation not only of Nixon in the days when he was learning to be what he is now, but also of his Pretty Wife Pat, to coin a phrase fully as loaded as cottage cheese with catsup. *

Since we Missed Out on the S of the N, we more than made up for it by hearing him clear through his Big Peace Plan last night. Very disturbing. We feel sure something like the Bay of Pigs or the Tonkin gulf is in the offing. Nothing else explains the timing: not the near-collapse of the governments in Laos and Cambodia, not his pre-primary need to reinforce his peacemaker image, not ~~the~~ the increasing clamor about POWs and how they are being used as political pawns, not even your idea that he may be trying to get the Chinese to un-invite him to Peking. There are easier ways to take ^{care} of all these things. Look out.

I hope you're more hopeful.

Thanks a million for all the most interesting enclosures. Let's hope you've got the Lattimer thing turned around. The general silence is encouraging. Maybe a stray thought I had when Graham's interview first appeared may have some validity -- that the selection of an irrelevant character like Lattimer really shows how hard up they are for someone to do their little jobs for them. Wishful, perhaps, but maybe there's something to it. You yourself have pointed out how damaging it would be have a real expert like Wecht involved at this point. Do they realize that? If ~~not~~ they do, why use a ruptured duck like Lattimer? The only problem about shooting him down is getting a platform to shoot from, and that's a big one, of course, but can they count on it?

I think that with a couple of enclosures from Jenifer this brings us up to date. Best from us both, and take care of that ~~the~~ thumb and don't take any chances with the other one.


jdw

*You knew, of course, that cottage cheese and Bell peppers is what Pretty Wife likes for lunch. You DIDN'T????!!!

As Lil has names for her favorite people, so have I for the Nixons - The Ultimate Barbie Doll Family. That's why all those bells rang as I read your State of the Union letter. Have just re-read it simply for the pleasure of the reading. 