

2/9/72

Dear Js,

Some catching up on last mailing:

EMK-Nofziger. That anyone could be called a cheat in comparison with Nixon and his California record, that Vneckers business being jail stuff, is perhaps the most eloquent commentary on American politics of recent months, if not years. And Krock or not, I still believe that as of now EMK neither wants nor intends to be a candidate. It is impossible for a potential candidate to take himself out unequivocally without giving away his political heft, or his trading strength. But my position is unchanged. If Nofziger is the shrewdie suggested, rather than just a political roughneck, he knows that any attack on EMK rubs off on the party and its candidate, as he sees political reality. Maybe he'll change, but as of today, although I think he'd win with little trouble, I do not think he'd run. I have not heard anyone, anywhere, say a good word for Nixon in so long I can't remember. His record is the most dismal. So this is not saying as much for EMK as it may seem. He has inherited much, and when he has taken positions, he has done it well and whether or not principled, has come across that way. I think his shrewdedt political stance today, esp. with his age and survival problems, is to be the unassuming elder statesman. But I agree with Krock to this extent: that is the only way it can happen.

Spy Shop/ Powell. That may be the source, but I seem to recall such a quote from his committee appearance. Thanks for the article, but I do not really need it.

2/3, jdW: Those pictures of the blanketed kids were on an end table next to which Lil was sitting after supper tonight. She picked them up, looked at them, and put out the broadest, happiest smile. They look like great kids!

Thanks for the info on EDK. That is the brand the name of which I'd forgotten. If it is new, it will take a year to get here. But I'm vry glad to get this info, for when I use up what I have, I'm going to have to switch to better cassettes if only for the preservation of the machine. My old VOM, as of today, is not back from the factory yet. It has been 2 months or more, and I'd rather use that for playbacks, etc., to save wear and tear on that beautiful TC 40, which will have to last. By the way, it has another good feature I discovered by accident. When the cassette seems to be in place and when the lid closes easily, if it is not perfectly positioned, the machine will not run. If it is accident rather than design, it is still great. Do not make a special inquiry, but when next you are at Accurate, I'd like to know if EDK also has the audio sensor. For interviews that should be a must now. I've gotten engrossed and let them run over, and I've disturbed concentration watching for the end.

Lattimer pix: no special need now. I have asked a friend to get me one from UPI, which also moved it and where I have a friend in the NYC pix office. My interest was well reflected in the one UPI shot I saw. Did get yours. L gets more impossible everyk time he yaps. I think that if I haven't closed that yapping, it will soon happen. He made the mistake of conning a square, trusting reporter who has a small Lattimer library and is with a syndicate. Sh!

Graham followup: considering that I know what was in the works, I'm really surprized it hasn't happened. Maybe Fred has had enough. Can't do more until the VOM is back. The Archives is trying its best to get me to apply for access with proxy eyes. When I reply, I'll carbon. Most recent received today. I will denounce the cheap ploy, name-trading, etc.

Haven't heard from Wade since writing, but may not. He does not always respond. Campaign time there now, and when I was there he held me up once to receive a party delegation soliciting him to run as an honest candidate, a man with no taint of money crookedness. I also have to send him some books... True about those legal eagles on the Commission being scared about getting a subpoena. I've got it all. In fact, I think I have that part of a book-length beginning of an analysis of those sessions done, maybe three-four years.

Je's 2/3. You are right on the pants. It was my idea, not Lil's. I'd read this before I picked her up for the trip to Wilmington. I asked her if she thought they could be taken in, because I remember you as much more slender than she. She says if the last pair were close to your size, they are in some way I do not now recall (and she is deep in tax work she had to bring home so I won't ask her now) not suitable. But it is a shame for such nice

comfortable things not to be used and enjoyed. Neither she nor I could think of anyone we know they'd fit and not too much the fogey to wear them. When she has time, we'll record the measurements, and if we have not thought of someone by then will send them to you in the event you or someone you know could enjoy them.

Kuttner was to do an interview. He'll give me the cassette after they dub if I want it. I have not reminded him for several reasons, one being I feel the more attention we attract to a dead horse, the more likely the flies are to learn. I have no personal interest to serve. There are things I could and would say that I'd be happy to be aired, but not any serious commentary on what Lattimer said. Small as their audience is, it could serve a constructive purpose to go into the whole mess while just ridiculing Lattimer briefly. When I go to DC I have too many things to do, and the alternative is his coming here, which he has done. Among what must be his present problems is their effort to get the last open FM channel in the Washington area. Do you suppose this could have anything to do with the liquidation of Elsa Knight Thompson? My interview on F.A.E.-UP I have somewhere. When I see it I'll dub you a copy, if you want to spend an hour that way. They aired it twice, once in unannounced time and once programmed. In NYC, that is. I do not know if more than programmed out there. But I got not a single reaction to it, not from those once so active in the case(s), either. Your analysis of the problems the changed programming will bring is persuasive. It may also have the effect of making the kids believe they are being patronized, which will reduce the audience even more. The kind of (to me)junk you mention requires no such station for those who want it. You have hit a point I think is little understood. Some of us older ones have a better rapport with the more serious younger ones than they can establish with their peers. I'm sure you do and I know we do. They are the only ones who come here now, and they love it. It is no longer apt to refer to a generation-gap. It is a concept gap. Some of the kids are much farther back than many of our years, and we, in our thinking, are much "younger" than they...In this connection, not radical policy switches from the bound-to-fail by a wide spectrum, for the Chicago Eight to the Panthers. But unless there is an absence of what they now call music on other stations, I think the Pacifica-type program for the young should be for the immature young. It serves no real purpose with that strange zigzagglurpboom stuff I can't stand. It is available everywhere. That time is too precious for duplications... I wish I thought the Nixon FCC would give them the license. We could use one here! My interest would be in the news and public affairs. When I listen to music, I find the kind I want readily available. I'm a loner, but I am also addicted to some of what was once considered pop music, boogiewoogie, New Orleans jazz, calypso, and old folk music, not the monotony I hear today...Lattimer transcript: I have asked the friend who made and has free xeroxing to send...Pacifica again: have you forgotten they did a similar thing at a time a congressional committee was after them?

Hal continues silent. Been nibbling at The Pentagon Papers. I'm now numb and it is no longer registering. It is the somethingoverandover andover again. But worth having if you didn't get the Bantam edition. And I've started Khrushchev Remembers, which is impressive and again I think worth having. Bantam edition out and available. It has an authentic tone and compared to what we have been getting from former Presidents, is of exemplary honesty-as far as I have gone. If I'd anticipated Hal would be 45 minutes late tonight, I'd have taken it rather than a fairly innocuous piece in the Sunday Post magazine on Halck by Robert Sherrill, which left me sitting and waiting most of the time. This time of the year, most of my reading is waiting-time reading. Hal can't quit on time. She has to finish with the client she is serving, and if her relief is late, she has to be there until the office is adequately staffed. She got there late for her this time of the year, 8 a.m., and now, at 10:15 p.m., she is checking returns at home. Too long a day. She was too tired to knit on the way to Wilmington. She dozen, which is hard on the neck in a '65, which does not have high backs on the seats...Bantam has come out with a Thoughts of Chairman Mao (I don't know what happened to my Freemanle editing) and a report by the American scholars who went there. I'll be getting both...Guess thumb is okay. Still swollen, stiff and sensitive even to cold. Can't bend half way and think I'm better off, with connective-tissue damage probable, not trying. But it is great to be able to wear a glove now that we finally have some winter. This is generally our most severe month. The neighborhood kids spend afternoons iceskating on our pond, not for the first time really safe. Best,

3 February 1972

Dear Harold:

The enclosed three color prints do not do justice to the blanket, which showed up very clearly in all its glory in the slides from which these were made. At least they will give you and Lil some idea of how much a part of the family it has become. As the second picture suggests, Miss Ma is an extremely mature child for nine months, very happy and pleased with the world in general. The third picture could be entitled "Cocoa, Cover, and the Dispossessed Fading Away into the Sunset."

Jenifer dropped in at Accurate TV the other day, and lo they now have TDK tape. "For my money, the best there is," says Mark, the resident expert. It's available in three grades and in cassettes of 60, 90 and 120 minutes.

SD, or super dynamic, the top grade, is better than Sony's best, according to Mark, because it "cuts out more of the hiss and background noise." A 120-minute cassette in this grade costs \$4.49. For voice, says Mark, the superiority over Sony is the same. LN, or low noise; a 120-minute cassette costs \$3.49.

And there's a third grade, which we neglected to get the name and price for.

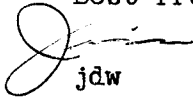
In your mailing of Jan. 25 you ask if the AP moved any pictures of Dr. Lattimer and his little chart. I saw only one, and you have a sort of copy in a copy of a States-Item clipping we've already sent you.

Regarding a second Fred Graham story, if there is one, and if it breaks on a Sunday as the first one did, we would be very grateful if you could make us a copy when you have time. We didn't find out about the first one in good time, and since we don't get the Sunday Times we had some trouble getting hold ~~xxx~~ of a copy, but finally did. If it's in the daily edition, we should of course get it. Incidentally, there has been not a word in the daily about Graham's first story, but as noted elsewhere we are behind in our clipping and may have yet to encounter it.

We return herewith your letter to Wade. Most interesting, especially the part about Rankin scaring the Commission members out of going to Dallas with talk about being subpoenaed by Belli.

Everything else enclosed should be self-explanatory. We're plunging into a 7-day week today, so it may be at least that long before we write again. We hope everything is reasonably under control and that your thumb is well over the worst.

Best from us both,



jdw

3 Feb 72

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~~The~~ small items brought up in your mailing of 28 Jan:

Clips of Harrisburg trial and Hughes affair. Thanks for the offer, but we seem to have quite a bit already on both. The Harrisburg stuff I'm reading before filing but with the Hughes thing I'm just clipping and keeping together to be read perhaps in my old age (next year). Do skin it, though.


As for exchanging those pants for Lil, I'm rather reluctant to do it. Partly because SHE's been so pleasant about exchanging things, including some bought for myself, and partly because the last time we were in SHE said, in general conversation, that new regulations have cut down their imports to 10% of that of the previous year. So I feel she may not be willing, with a much smaller stock to work with, to make the exchange. Wouldn't blame her, either.

In the same note - of 1/23/72 - you mention Bob Kuttner is to do an interview on the Lattimer thing. When he does, if you could give us the date we could check with KPFA and perhaps hound them a little to air it here. If they broadcast the first Kuttner interview with you we missed it. They have an unscheduled hour almost every day and could have played it then, and I do try to tune in at the beginning of that hour to see what they have. Called the station and the girl I spoke to said she thought it had been aired but would check and promised to let me know if it had been, if so when, and if they were going to rebroadcast it. Nothing happened and I'm not going to try again because I've no reason to think the result would be different. For the past six months or so there has been quite a different attitude at the station, or perhaps I should say a different policy. About three years ago a new station manager was appointed and about six months ago a new program director, and between them they engineered the firing of one of the station's best people, Elsa Knight Thompson, who had been with KPFA since almost the very beginning twenty-something years ago. One of the very best interviewers on that or any other station we know of, with a very good mind and the ability to get to the very heart of the matter. I wouldn't be surprised if most listeners didn't think of her as KPFA; we certainly did. IF Even granting she was probably extremely difficult to get along with, there was no excuse for the - there's no other word for it - the brutal way she was fired. Anyway, the tone of the station has changed and it's aimed much more at a much younger audience - one with which, ironically, she was very much in sympathy. You'd agree we are, too, wouldn't you? So it isn't the target of the programming we mind, it's the method.

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I simply can't listen comfortably to someone speaking seriously while at the same time (and I do mean at the same time if you can imagine it) there's someone else singing rock and roll stuff and there are snatches of electronic music. We think there should be a good solid share of air time for the young audience, we ~~want~~ ^{get} it - but there always was. I'll find an example of one of their program listings and paste it at the bottom of this, and if you ~~xi~~ can understand what the program's about you're Gunga Din.* But the KPFA news - 45 minutes anyway, sometimes an hour - and the public affairs programs (so often on things no other station would think of touching) are as good as they used to be, so we still continue to support the station. However, if the rest of the ~~program-certain~~ programming continues as it is we probably won't feel like doing more than continuing with the basic subscription. Except for the news there will be no other programming for the entire month of February except fund raising. This happens once a year although this length of time hasn't been set aside for it before, and I don't believe ever for this amount, \$115,000. In the past they've made their goals, very often when those of their listeners who could afford it would give \$1,000 at a time, but if the audience they're aiming at is college age, "street" and commune people, it isn't going to be easy. Not that it ever was. The sad thing is that Mrs. Thompson in her talks with them presented them in such a way the straight types could understand and empathize.** Sorry to have gone on and on like this but this has been a great disappointment to us - I wouldn't have thought it possible to tune in KPFA and turn the radio right off again.

One more thing to answer in yours of 1/23/72. Yes, we'd be very interested in hearing your Lattimer tapes whenever it's convenient for you to send them, and we'd like very much to have the transcript of him on the Long John program - if it's fairly readily available. But don't go to any real trouble if that's what it involves; we can probably manage to stagger on somehow without it. If there's any cost, and there must be if it has to be xeroxed, let us know what it is, please.

I'm off. I'm not even going to re-read and correct this - will leave that to my secretary as he reads it. 

P.S. (naturally - it wouldn't be one of my letters if there weren't a P.S.) - A note on tiny Jenifer. The time before the last time the Mattoses were here she had an almond-shaped little face and slender little fingers, but the last time she was a fat little balloon. We're sorry the pictures didn't turn out better.

*Sorry - cannot find; last month's Folio already thrown out, and February's lists no programs at all, of course. No matter.

**Her name is now never mentioned, she never existed - an unperson.