

4/12/72

Dear Js,

The mail is getting to be wonderful when on a single day I get five letters from Behind Bars, an invitation to become a member of the National Voter Advisory Board of the American Security Council and an anonymously-sent Greeting from the Freeway Planning Commission accompanied by four exemplifications of how much can be done to improve by an artist and how yet even the suggestion of verisimilitude can't hide ugliness of our Glorious Leader. (Whoever dreamed up that Generation of Peace" must never have heard of B52s, Southeast Asia or Protective Retaliation.)

Anyway, the freeway announcement is one of which a friend who has been leading such campaigns here will be jealous, so I'll give it to him, and having already mounted an earlier and touching gift of the shadowless visage of said GL, I'll favor each of four friends with one of each. The sticky part, by the way, IS appropriate.

I've just taken a'il to the planning meeting of her family reunion and left here there rather than spend 2 hrs. with that uck she can't avoid, hoping to do some work on returning, but I find I am wearier than I'd thought, so I'll read, perhaps the King stuff you loaned, perhaps Frank's book, which I must complete by the time we are scheduled to confront, which is now but 2 weeks off. I suppose some of the weariness is emotional. I've also just mailed our lawyer the raw material needed to respond to enormously time-consuming government interrogatories which are not that at all but part of a campaign of harrassment and an effort to get on our nerves. However, it was little comfort to learn that for the last ~~10~~ 8 years of our farming, as a consequence of the helicopters and sonic booms, and without the planned expansion of our capacity and even then comparing with a base year the last hal of which was adversely effected by just such disasters, we lost about \$150,000. There was a provable \$30,000 loss that should have been covered in the suit we won and wasn't because that Genius, head of ADA, who was our lawyer never told me there was such a thing as Proof of Loss, never, in fact, thought of it until I was on the stand!, and the friend, another lawyer, who arranged for him to handle that suit because he was a "specialist", kept assuring me not to be concerned, that this would be won on the law. It is slight comfort to have established a new principle of law, despite the best efforts of counsel to lose, and to have come out with a negligible recovery from a judge whose decision says he didn't believe me and not until later learned about the quality of our representation, collaterally, when he dressed down that lawyer in a way I have never heard equalled save in irresponsible jurisdictions. This is a conservative judge. I have asked him not to withdraw from this case, despite his offer, and told him I think I am entitled to have a chance at a decision that reverses this permanent defamtion that can be erased only in court. But he is in semi-retirement. Anyway, it is all very wearying. And none of this requires answer.

Sony has not filled my order, so in the last minute, before I leave, in the chance I'll have a chance to use the recorder, I'll probably have to buy a slew of Sony tapes. Returning from delivering Li, I bout 10 pkgs of cheap 60s at \$1.23 per pkg of 3 + tax, so again I remind you of the economics of spending 16¢ to return one that is blank. I have enough cheap ones now!

I am wondering if the feds will let me use my recorder in Leavenworth. I'll have to be prepared for yes, tho I expect no, and I'm glad I'll have someone to leave my attache case with, Jerry Ray, when I'm there if they do not let me take it in. I have no doubt I'll be able to tape JER. I'm going to type up excerpts from what I'm sending you and see what he has to say. In fact, after the dose of Frank, which should be taxing enough (to keep from exploding), and the long trip to Leavenworth with a man who makes a wrong turn at any turn if one is talking (so I hope there is a limited access expressway!), with any luck I'll have to stay over at Leavenworth and maybe also at Petros. Jerry has offered to drive me back to Tenn, but 800 miles of driving is unattractive and I must try and see someone in Springfield, so I'll probably fly from there to Knoxville. If I'm tired now, can you guess how I'll feel when I get home?

= Although I had no reason before to doubt you have an idea of what I'm into, does the enclosure give you any further ideas? You should see the list of those who have gone to The Great Reward from John. His stuff has an interesting touch. Somebody's throat was slit but he lived through that. So much I can't begin and shan't try to keep it all in mind now. But from the one enclosure, from a man who should be in a position to know, you should be able to get a feel of what is going on. It is true. The only one not salted, or as they now say, iced, is Jerry. James thinks he'll be safest with Stoner. I think he needs not being alone, but wonder is Stoner could survive any examination by a competent lawyer. He's fairly sharp, but he boils low and is lazy. When you add these things to his twisted thinking and even Jimmy, without using the word, finds traces of paranoia, you can see my wonder....The strangest part of all is that despite the fact that all of this odd crew is criminal, I find them more honorable and ethical than the government, on any level, or the respected writers, without exception.

Probably at this minute Bud is with Jimmy. I've spent an enormous amount of time building confidence in Bud and hoping it also is not a mistake. I hope he can succeed with the mission I gave him. The evidences of what Stoner did that I had anticipated, as reflected in earlier carbons, is now in hand and makes that more difficult. You'll find some ref. in letter to JER.

For this alone I ought be 30, not 59!

The "Walter" of another carbon is an editor at Dantam, black-connected. The Rick to whom I gave the raw material of "Desire" is an unknown I met when we both did a black TV show together in DC less than 3 weeks ago. I think it can make a beautiful book. Rick has no agent. I've given him the name of a black one, the only one who was decent and really tried for me.

Continuing silence from Hal. As a matter of fact, from almost everyone. I think friend Gary spread the word that I should be left alone because I'm carrying too heavy a load. Good intentions, if so, but also a way of making the load heavier, if you can follow this. I'm blunted or frustrated stupidities and harm by advance knowledge in the past.

Of all the strangest coincidences, my Baltimore lawyer in my damage suit vs the Army lunched after the hearing on my spectro appeal with the apparently pro-government (in a criminal matter that was borderline) judge who heard the arguments. Talk about small worlds! I still don't have the memo we filed (let me know if you want your files to bulge), but I've read the unimpressive government memo and you have the fast draft of our response. Moderated, it should be effective and timely except to the already-persuaded and corrupt.

Anyway, you now know why I've been asking about a good reporter in St. L or KC, huh?

Best to both,