

4/27/71

Dear Js,

The anger and frustration I now feel may, in a way, address your pertinent and quite correct comment about p'i-ch'i, to which I'll return. I think enough of it is clear in the confidential memo dated today that is enclosed. The deal on which I am working is with Bantam, where I have a friend who is a vice-president. That means nothing there. The man who makes the decisions is out of the country or has just returned. The tentative arrangement, if they are interest, is that some of them would come here to see this material and much more, but this is the essence of the hot stuff, meaning the hottest. It is all hot. The deal discussed is that they would place hardback advantageously, I'd do the book fast for them to edit, and they'd have paperback rights and control over and interest in all subsidiary rights. The fact is I expect to saty part of the time in NY C with this v-p friend, we are that close, and he is wild for the book. But publication of this one thing, as you know, could take enough off the edge to hurt the book, even foreclose contracting for it. It would almost certainly kill all subsidiary rights.

And can you imagine how it is to live this way? Not knowing who to trust, to want to help others with their work and having to fear some ambitious incompetent will seek greatness at the cost of killing an ongoing investigation? There are three places I have to go, possibly four, to complete what will be possible in this investigation. The package included that expense. I have been inx contact with the right people at the key places. I have done all I can do short of going there. And I have had and can still depend upon a key public official's cooperation—Henry Wade! He has become my friend, and we are on a first-name basis and have been for years. I've been working on this so long, have som much in it.

Anyway, I live with such frustrations, such angers, such pressures. And endless literary theivery by the ambitious incompetents who can do nothing on their own, regardless of their resources, and without exception misuse what they steal—and console themselves that they serve the public good with such theft. So, when you add the time pressures, for as you know, I don't anymore take the time to read and correct my awful typing, you can understand why I didn't go over the Barkham letter as I should. Unfortunately, I can't get it out except the way I feel it. If I try to edit myself as I wrote, I just take an enormous amount of time and can't do it well. For years I have dreamed of an editor-in-residence. I need one. I have been aware of the truth and wisdom od what you say for a long time. It is a liability. But the choice is letting something else go undone. I take more time reading my rough drafts of books that I do writing them, and I still don't catch all I should. However, wha the record does show, on the other side (which might still be true were I to make them cooler), is that the whores lose their interest in this aspect of the calling after one such letter. In some cases, it changes them (as I think it did with Gavzer). If Barkham again addresses himself to any assassination writing as he did this time, he'll be the first. Even when I was at my worst, on the Crane show, I silenced Liebeler. There is something about the passion that gets through. Which is not to say it couldn't or wouldn't cooler. It's just the way I am, I fear.

Your little note: do not apologize for delays in response. I do not expect @ther. Mostly these things are just to inform you anyway. While I haven't swung shifts for years, I did as a boy, and if there is overtime, I know what it can be. It must be harder just before retirement than a t the beginning....FW review: enclosed....If you do not get the book soon, I'll send. I sent one to Hal. The publishers are, as the kids say, something else. But in this case it may be just the norm of an inefficient industry. Dutton distributes....Check on Hal. I do not disclose nature of our mutual concern, though in my last I gava a glimmer of my own, I hope not unwisely....Hermes: agreed, great machine. But the platens are, apprently, of an inferior material. If I can get brackets put on my wife's machine, I'll Probably do with this. They are valuable, and I'd have more use for them than some of the other keys. Glad to know it can be done. I'd I'd known of the suitcase model at the time I bought this, I'd probably have gotten it and replaced my old Underwood with a second-hand

upright. What we dream of is being able to get Lil the IBM with the different balls, for doing what might be underground editions (financillay now impossible) and me inheriting her good Royal electric, in the hope that I might someday learn not to take my passions out on the keyboard. I learned hunt-and-peck as a high-school "journalist" and have never felt I could take the time to learn touch. So I beat the hell out of any machine, It is a kind of catharsis sometimes, and when I get to pouring it on and out——!

Media: I have the report I wanted. It adds little (and is of interest on Oswald as an agent only). So, my interest is limited, I think I now have all the Times and Phila. papers have used, and it is only for the future, should you see such things. Don't take time to wade through anything. (One of Bud's bullyboys, Sprague, blundered into something I'd long been working onon this and I've told my source what + never have before, that I'll not be part of anything that can get somebody hurt—he'll cutk-off from everyone else or neither write me again nor send me anything, which is the way I think it can be. His source can be hurt by one set of enemies, killed by another.)

Ginsburg: he did this for ACLC radio and TV at least. My own awareness came from noting the Cubans arrested in the dope trade. Most recent arrests have been of them. I had only general knowledge, really rumor, of CIA-Su Asia, but I'd have assumed it anyway. I have no great interest in this. But as you should have become aware, I am developing a new Mafia interest, and there it is live.

I'm delighted with the Sony. I can use it the few times I need to hide it, which is very rare. I don't think I've even wanted to a dozen times in seven years. I just don't work or think that way. But your previous explanations on the adaptatationswill be helpful. I have a switeched tie-clasp mike, with plugs as with what you said of the Craig. When I can see my way clear, I'll do it, and with the mike, too. Sony has not yet answered my inquiries, but I attribute that tot the effeciencies of modern indistry.I may have time to seek the patchcords in NYC. There is no such thing as a Sony dealer here, and when I'm in DC, I've always too much to do. I'll need several. Timer is a good idea. I have a dozen in my chickenhouses at Hyattstown, but I think we have a defroster one from an old refrig that might do. But I'm usually awake.

Lil has lunch ready, and I think after that I'd best go outside and try and work some of this worry, apprehension, disgust, sickness—everything but hate-off working on the rgrounds. I transplanted a wheelbarrow of saylilies while awaiting the mail, and I've three small tress to move. I have other mail to get out tonight, so I'll probably go into town afterward, and then may feel a little ~~more~~ less frustrated. But at the moment, were I writin g AGENT OSWALD, I'd begin with a hiding introduction of all the self-seekers and the harm they've done. If Bud ruins t is, I may jet! I'm that far past tolerance. You've no idea what I've swallowed on the Ray case alone, where I did the impossible, got him his client, gave him his case, refused a profitable publishing offer to do a sgort, sensationally-written book on what I'd done, just to make him look good, and then he backed out on his part of the bargain, got extensive publicity on his committee doing what it had not and I had, and atop that tried to ring in his sycopahnt, that plagiarist Falmonde as "the investigator". He took Flammonde to Europe, and together they brought back nothing, but didn't keep other promises to me....Can you imagine what having to be silent about all of this, atop Garrison, hxx has done, can do, to my self-respect?

Thanks,
Best,

22 Apr 71

Notes on letters from you dating back to 14 Mar, as I organize them for filing:

Publishers Weekly (yours of 25 Mar) - If you have an extra copy of their review, could we have one for our file? Haven't seen even the review itself. Ordered the book several weeks ago but have heard nothing yet from the lady who runs our bookstore here, who has otherwise always provided very prompt service, and prides herself on it. Do the publishers consider themselves guardians of some state secret, or - as we'd prefer to think - is the book selling so well we're waiting for another printing? Still on the same subject, when the "Establishmentarian reviewer" produces his article on the three books he considers the best of those he read last year, if you happen to remember it we'd like to know when and where it appears so we can get a copy.

Hal - When we went to Oakland to see him last week, took several of your latest letters so he could get caught up. However, did not include yours of 25 Mar because of personal remarks about him in it (would prefer he didn't know we've been discussing his apparent state of mind, etc., but he knows we've kept you informed about his being out of work, his new address and so on) - where was I? That was the letter where you said it would be useful if he could speak to Louis Freeman. As it happened, he suggested that himself in relation to calling Eason and others.

Also, we forgot to tell you in the last letter that he said he has not seen or been in touch with Paul Hoch for months.

Eason (yours of 29 Mar) - His program is on from 7 to 10 p.m., Mon through Fri, then on Sundays 3 p.m. to (I think) 7 p.m.

Hermes (yours of 7 Apr) - Can't understand why yours has been such a disappointment. Just happened to get a lemon? We've had five, only one of which wasn't entirely satisfactory, and that was an early post-war "Baby" (briefcase size). I'd had a pre-war version which performed beautifully; lost it in Manila. We still have a much-travelled and much-used 2000, now 33 years old which though somewhat tired is still functional and so much a part of the family we wouldn't part with it for anything. We now each have a 3000 and wouldn't want anything better. I must admit that the small type on this one doesn't make good copies, but I don't have need for vast numbers and when that does happen I use the ^{other} ~~one~~ with larger type. It also must be admitted that the Hermes touch takes some getting used to. On our 3000's we each had one type key changed, to provide for square brackets - [] - very handy.

John Barkham (yours of 10 Apr) - The draft of your letter to the NYPost, and other letters like it you've let us see (to my surprise, I find I can feel sorry for even Mr. Foreman), fills me with a sense of relief that we're on your side of the fence and the hope that we may never be on the other. But - if we'd never heard of you and

came to this cold in the Post, I think I at least would be less interested in getting the book than if the same points were made with less fury. No one is more effective than you are when your weapon is cold logic. The effect is deadly, and unanswerable. For me the p'i-ch'i (untranslatable Chinese word which wraps up in one neat package not only the feeling itself, but all the fireworks in expressing it), even though justified, is a distracting factor, and I have to subtract it to see what really very good points you are making. No, no, no, I'm not saying "turgid writing"! I just think it would sting more with less p'i-ch'i. I want it to sting.

This unsolicited advice comes to you entirely without charge or obligation from The Wise Old Woman of the Tribe. (I'm a whole year older than you are.)

Media, Pa. (yours of 10 Apr) - Had already started taking clippings on this and if we come across anything along the lines you indicate, you'll certainly have it. However, I'm a month behind on the NYTimes, though I hope to get started on them today. As to "anything on informants of any kind," do you mean Tommy the Traveller types? Have some of that. As for "mechanics of handling, paying, contact, etc.," will cautiously offer to plod plod through the appropriate folders, if you're in dire need, but off-hand can't remember anything we have which might be useful. But then my memory, in perfect harmony with the rest of me, is not what it once was.

Allen Ginsburg (your undated note, on yellow scratchpad) - Have heard or seen somewhere, can't remember where, that he is working on a book or article on CIA involvement in hard drugs; have no idea if Cubans mentioned. Have heard nothing of his SCLC thing. The May Ramparts has an article by Frank Browning and Banning Garrett ("The New Opium War") but on a quick skim-through seems to deal only with Laos and South Vietnam, nothing about Cubans. Will remember, though, the angle you mention, take-over of the trade from the Mafia, and will let you know if we see any suggestion of it.

Sony (yours of 12 Apr) - Should make it clear we realize that what you had in mind was something more concealable, but this was just too good to pass up. You wouldn't believe - due to a combination of circumstances which I'm not going to go into - how little we actually paid for it, so use it with a free heart. It should at least be useful when travelling, and make it more possible for you to get the other if you don't have buy one like this, too. When you get a patchcord to record directly from radio or television, and if you have one of those timers that turn lights etc on and off, you may be able to do the whole thing automatically. We almost routinely tape what we want when we're asleep or out, then listen when it's convenient. I suppose you already know cassette tapes come a whole hour to a side. We've found that Sony is consistently more trouble-free, tape-wise.

(signature)

Something I wanted to say and forgot: If it sometimes takes us a while to respond to your letters, it's entirely because of the very nearly impossible office schedule. With a 24-hour operation there are naturally three shifts, and on occasion we have had all three in one week; we've had nine and ten days at a stretch without time off, and after that perhaps one day (spent in bed). In times of crisis, of course it can be coped with, but not for months on end.

You can imagine what this costs in purely physical terms. (Or can you imagine what it's like to get out of bed and face, not breakfast, but the cooking and eating of dinner? Our "normal" schedule.) Add to this the mental and emotional pressures at work, due to under-staffing, lack of time, and most of all the handling of frivolities instead of what's really happening, and you have two tired, tired people who spend - must spend - so ~~much~~ much energy just keeping their noses above water there's very little left over for anything else. I'm not under the same pressures but I do feel some of them, empathetically, and I keep the same hours.