

4/21/71

Dear Js,

I begin each of Lil's days by making her a pot of mate. While it is working I've a few minutes before I awaken her.

In Baltimore yesterday I again got the government working on our old damage suit. They have assigned a still more junior assistant to it, but with the judge having set a pre-trial conference for 5/7, they are under some pressure and there is the possibility that after two years of stalling, this time they may negotiate in good faith. We'll see. I gave them some of my evidence yesterday, having had it packaged for them for two years.

Troubles with the publisher continue, the only difference being they now seem a bit desperate. They remain dishonest. I think one of the hangups is that Outerbridge considers himself a pro am pr and he is not even an amateur, as the record indicates. They have even held me back. Now that it is too late, they are not, and they've promised to pay my acknowledgely slight expenses and admit they owe the advance, which is slight progress.

The Washington Post is keeping after Hoover. They have a story yesterday from Harrisburg citing one Joseph Tafe as engaged in rather dubious activity with that grand jury, whose jurisdiction would seem at best to be questionable, as its post-indictment continuation of interest also does. Anyway, this is the name of a DJ lawyer arrested 9/69 in N.O. for impersonating an FBI agent. If you noticed any publication of any disposition, I'd be interested. I'll phone it to the Post later today.

The spirea burst out this morning, before the sun, which is not yet above the pines, the dogwood is showing color, the jonquils and daffodils are fairly well out, as are some species of tulips, the grass needs cutting, so I guess the season has really changed. I hope other things do with it. Only the tops of the mountains from here remain brown.

Apparently the NYReview of Book is going to do one on F-U. If they are still hung up on their part of a nasty business with Popkin and Avon in 1966, I should be looking for the ax. But with the peice I hear they have done on the FBI (I've not seen it), maybe not. The review copt at the NYTimes disappeared from their shelves while the librarian was on vacation. He doesn't know if this was tehft, assignment or the casual interest of one of their six reviewers. WW is probably the most-stolen book of all time. With the 14th copy I made the Times start paying for them.

Hope things are prettying out there, too.

Best