

Whitten

Dear Les,

7/3/85

No, this is not to get the (not yet) Old Firehorse to hear clanging bells.

If Jack were to carry anything he didn't alter significantly the Post would not carry it anyway, and if he "improves" it as last time, it will do no good.

I'm old enough to have a clear image of real firehorses, by the way. No motor-driven engines when I was born in central Philadelphia, two blocks from a firestation. (The city took an end row house, made openings in the long wall, and there both the equipment and the horses were. As a kid I loved to visit the great horses, I suppose very big and strong Percherons. Magnificent creatures, especially when, manes flying, sparks trailing from the steamer that operated the pumps, they raced down the cobblestone streets, hooves marking sparks and great noises. What a clatter!

I'm my own lawyer again and my wife is ~~xxx~~ retyping the draft of what I have until - and how appropriate it is - Bastille Day to file. The real reason Mark Lynch and the ACLU backed out is they are afraid, and this is a great danger to the country, when lawyers are afraid. I'm not saying he ought not be afraid, tho.

Just between us, for I do not want to embarrass him or them, he had agreed to do this when I raised the question at the time he represented me on remand before that judicial whore Smith. He said he wanted to handle it separately, so I prepared him, and he didn't return it or say he'd changed his mind. That came when the time came. When we were first talking about this, by phone (we've never met), and he seemed to be afraid, I asked him how he'd feel if he were the government lawyer called upon the face this. He said, "Afraid." So I excused him with thanks and we are not on unfriendly terms. In fact, he told me to call him if I need any help with any of the legal mumbojumbo. But I just sat down and did it off the top of the head, to get it done and overwith. I'll mail this when it is retyped and I mail copies to the court and DJ. I'm also going to embarrass DJ by sending copies to its so-called "Office of Professional Responsibility," in actuality its whitewashing component with the Orwellian name.

If I were going to slug this, it'd be (Old) Man Bites (Dirty) Dog.

I wish I could believe that anyone will care but experience tells me otherwise. I'll try again, with copies to some reporters, and I can hope a little that with the recent attention to official mendacity and the different form of this thing maybe someone will think as traditionally we thought about the responsibilities of the press. Meanwhile, we've succeeded in overturning the evil precedent against lawyers. The judgement against him was wiped out. But the conflict remains because they can still go up on appeal vs him. I'm supposed to cough up by the 14th. In filing his (approved by me) petition to withdraw at my request Lynch notified the court and the other finks that I'm going to file this motion. I've included a demand for a trial, as a constitutional right, but the Smiths of the courts have their own constitution, not the one you and I studied in school, the one I continue to believe is the greatest political document/charter man has ever composed.

I think that this time I'll send a copy with a letter to Ben Bradlee, who will probably remain silent. Meanwhile, if you can think of anyone who might get interested, please speak to him/her/it. And if you want to get away from it all with a short trip, we do have a 40-foot swimming pool I can't use any more, and the quiet is the only thing you might find disturbing.

Best,