

Dear Jon,

7.4.74

In haste, for I'm against many deadlines and do my own work:

The Sprague piece is worse than I'd expected. Mostly invention that is embellishment of someone else's invention. Misinterpreted non-fact with a little not fairly represented fact from other work, mine. (Very little at that.)

But he is sincere, persuaded and believes this fabrication is factual. Nothing can be done. I've a fat file of my efforts. With Berkley, too.

On the book I told you I'd be doing on this new material that is really dynamite: I've done a draft of the text that I hope to get to reading and editing today. Some of it is pasted up for the camera, with footnotes written and to be typed and mounted. Of the documentation, all FBI and Secret Service reports, etc., a few of my copies have disappeared and I'm getting replacements. Or, I'm close to completion of a camera-ready book. A friend is trying to borrow the money for the printer.

It seems to me that this is a natural for the guy who owns Rolling Stone. The friend, who is a young lawyer, is going to talk to Julia Cameron, who did that magnificent Hunt piece, to see if she can interest him.

If you can reach him, please do. Fast. The word is firestorming through the nutteries, which does our Glorious Leader's dirtier dirty work. Misuse, which has to be his intent, is inevitable and imminent.

My text, my content, which comes from what I alone have done and this can't be done by anyone else, can frustrate his misuse.

I am talking about one of the more probable and little discussed counts in a bill of impeachment. The longer book I'm writing, 70-75% done, addresses others that I have every reason to believe will be chickened on.

One can be a Sprague and with the best of intentions do only/hurtful or one can do serious work that can confront the Establishmentarians and may have the possibility of letting them see where the real interest of the Establishment lies, in this case with popular interest. For this one needs help from those of principle who are in a position to help. I just can't go around and seek this and do anything else.

I am aware that this may mean nothing to strangers. But I have what others can see, if I can't and won't mail it around.

Also, I believe this will return a profit, not be a cost. I am fairly certain the serial rights of the book I'm rushing will exceed the cost of printing. I am certain that with attention, even if I can organize no distribution, it will pay for itself.

While doing all of this I also have the Nixon tape transcripts in comprehensible form, ready for editing and printing. I think there is a market, not just the need. I am talking to someone, not a publisher, in New York on this. His present notion is to make the work more "hippy," less "scholarly." Because it is 100% Nixon text, not even a footnote, what he must mean is "serious," which is not to say it can't be as close as one can get with Nixon to eating babies to end famine. If this could be done in my underground format it could be 100% facsimile of official documents.

Thanks for the stuff you sent and for any efforts you may be able to make.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg