

Dear Jim,

2/27/74

This will be One of Those Days, as yesterday was. Before it ensnares me, I want to address your 2/25/74 comments on the coinciding violences. You are perceptive, in a sense a bit conservative in noting that the three conspicuous cases involve major press figures. The fact is that except for the dramatic incident of the insane man at the Baltimore airport, all of that period involve major press figures.

Where in your second graf you note that the official story switched to the hoary lone-nut line and Murphy's adjustment to it, let me note that this same official story eliminates the possibility in accounting for two cars other than the Williams car, the one in front of the jeep and the one following it. Three cars simultaneously driven by a single man? That should be a bit too much for the art of official semantics, even considering the advance state of its development.

I know the Knowland record well and you are anything but unkind in describing him as "not too bright."

If he had personal distresses that could have driven him to suicide it is possible they might have been of a nature his family and friends would not disclose. But if he had health problems why keep them secret? And what remains but your suggestion?

Because I also believed that ~~xxxx~~ Knowland intended a run for the Presidency in 1960 and was aware of the state problems, I then found myself wondering why he gave up a fine beginning position which included a regular national forum for a questionable race. He was better off as Republican Senate leader than as governor of California for making the presidential run. As I saw it, anyway. I think you have provided the Nixontine (variant of Byzantine) explanation.

Today is one I'd like to be able to devote to close analysis of the indictments and their handling. But I will not be able to leave to get papers other than the Post, which won't be here for several hours yet.

Yesterday had a good start and then ran downhill. I made my fourth success as my own lawyer, risking a fine of up to \$500 to beat an unjustified \$15 ticket for the first moving violation which I have ~~xxx~~ ever had charged. I won in court without making an enemy of the state trooper, which would not have been wise close as I live to the barracks. Our main TV zonked out and we lost our water the day before yesterday and the plumbers were late coming, so they wasted \$36 for me yesterday for what they could have told me in a minute, that I have to dig the lines up from the house to the well the location of which is entirely secret. If we are to get water three days hence I'll have to have this line bared for them by Monday a.m. If it doesn't rain a backhoe will be here after daylight, minimum cost \$35, covering the first hour only. It may interest you to know that before they left the plumbers decided to try some divining of which they had heard, with copper instead of a branch. They cut off some bare wire about 1/2" thick, shaped it into two B's and walked in a line from the point in the cellar wall where we know the pipe leaves the cellar. They made a straight line to a point where deviation stopped and put a brick there as a marker. I was then with the TV man, who had to take the set with him. When I asked them to show me I did watch, they did duplicate it and I could not see the man manipulating the copper. He held both straight out. Once one only moved and that in a wide arc. Several times both did, less strongly. And past that brick, no movement. Nor on either side of the invisible line. We'll find out in digging. But I don't look forward to that and if it rains I'll have to get the maddock out and do it by hand. I've already added up to six inches of rock along that line in making a turn-around for the car. Before any of this, when the plumbers earlier wasted about \$50 for us, with her typical optimism I'd predicted we'd find the well under the concrete in the carport. Meanwhile, with plumbers not @ \$18 an hour here and portal-to-portal, it seems unwise not to replace the watertank, which shows pitting, and the galvanized ~~xxxx~~ pipe from the pump to it and all the outside pipe, where the theory has it there is a hole, plus the kit at the bottom of the pipe in the well because all of it is 20 years old and that early plastic pipe has turned out to have a dependable life of only about 10 years. Or, we are about to slip back a bit in our emergency from debt.

Fortunately I lacked confidence in the plumbers as well as the plumbing and had 10 gallon jugs filled with good water. But I'll spend today hauling water with which to refill them and the buckets, each trip of 1,000 feet. So, there is One of Those Days ahead. Thus no reading of the writing, which I'll mail when I go out for the paper. And I'll hope it does not rain, the forecast, so I can at least read the major stories before all this begins.

On your page 2: I need no more on Dektor. Our comments crossed on this. You now know what I found in Time if you don't have that. Nor on the desecration of Lincoln.

Maybe another approach on the conundrum will help: Bernie and his pals had themselves a helping of Chile in Washington for sure and probably several in New York. Pretty spicy stuff. They were persuaded by the self-styled epicurean whose diabolical interests have attracted both of us. Of all the unhappiness that came to Bernie, indignation from this is not one of his sufferings. I think it is one of the factors that made it possible for Gault, the hero of P Street, to work himself into a good position. Considering his actual situation. His silence has been golden.

If this is still too obscure, I'll try again.

Yesterday I sent a third-class mailing.

I've not had time to read the interesting-looking enclosures. Nor yesterday's paper, which I did clip while awaiting the calling of my case outside the courtroom.

The enclosed to Lindsay may be and will probably appear to be a waste of time. It may not be the best possible approach. However, I felt it might be worth arming him a bit more in the remote event there is some internal doubts about the indictments.

Public radio signed on a few minutes ago with what I take to have been wire copy. Watergate was the fifth or sixth item. The downplay is strong everywhere.

The sounds from the roof predict my today's career!

I have started SLA and ARA files. I'll include this in ARA for your comments are perceptive and my greater interest is in this coast's, where I've made several approaches without confidence any will lead to anything.

In flipping the enclosures I note the KCBS transcript referring to Stoner. CBS did not have the entire diary, despite the pictures showing Goldberg holding it and appearing to read from it.

I regard yesterday's WxPost's "Robert Kennedy Papers" story, which I read in the court, as quite important. If you see anything else relating to the RPK papers disclosed or at least reported under 2/28 dateline or later I'd welcome for TIGER, which says what this says by analysis and some proof but without this directness.

Best,