

Dear Les,

12/14/78

Thanks for the humorous note on the card. The health appears to be good and the hearings going fine, with loses no loss in the end. Except for the House assassins. They are a total loss, if you are interested for the end of the sabbatical which I believe is now close.

On the health this morning I shouldered the trunk of a greenwillow about 15 feet long, 6-7" on the butt, and carried it the length of a football field, to where I can saw it ~~up~~ up with an electric saw. It was a little much but I did do it. And I'm resting from that now. After which I'm going out and ~~sawing~~ chop the branches up for kindling and small wood to start larger pieces in the fireplace. I've about a cord of this small stuff ricked up at the house. If you want any come and get all you can use. I'll be adding to it all winter when I can get a solid footing because I've launched a so far successful offensive against the repressive influences of wild grapes, honeysuckle, greenbriars and wild roses the likes of which I doubt you've seen. 50 feet long is not exceptional, not is a 2" trunk. They've been killing trees, ~~which~~ which I'll also harvest. Trimming out the larger branches gives me good arm exercise with the machete (subclavian arterial blockage diagnosed after we last saw each other) and permits my building piles in which the smaller wild animals can take refuge or build dens.

But I feel fine, thanks, and generally do not overdo it while spending part of each day in physical exercise.

There are those who probably evaluate the non-physical work I do as more violent. It has been very productive but my uses of it have been inhibited by my lack of any help and the nutty interpretations that are made if I let the conspiracy theorists have it. There is, for example, a helluva Ford/Commission/CIA story in the executive session transcripts that were given to me in an effort to moot most of one suit, now before the appeals court. This was after I lost and appealed. The remaining transcript is another Ford story, involving the assassins committee Member Sam Devine as a racist.

All kinds of stories, if you are interested, and you can take copies of the documents with you save for any that may be lost in the mass. Literally. More than 150,000 pages since we last spoke. The assassins committee, which is going to slap the FBI wrist with a pinkie, has nothing of substance that I did not get under FOIA. Or, it was all public domain without them. They they misused what they used. This is why they have to leak and con people like Jack. In turn, this predisposition is why I've not told any of those good young people any of this. I won't risk twisting in what finally appears.

Actually the committee is much worse than this and the press has failed once again. With good reporters like Lardner, if there is no desk problem they are just disgusted and turned off and want to forget the whole stinking mess.

Which is the way authoritarianisms are conceived, birthed and strengthened.

Again thanks and best wishes, for the holiday, the return to work and the Great American Novel.

Sincerely,



All the best
in health &
happiness in
79 -
Ed Whitten

GREETINGS