

Dear Howard,

8/30/72

There are about 10 minutes before a TV special on dope traffic I want to see. We had a late supper. One of the things that has been on my mind a bit is the letters in an envelope already to go to you. You may find some of them strong. They may be. You will have read them before you get this and perhaps have formed an opinion. Before chiding me about their tone, and I'll admit it may be justified, I'd like you to think of several things: should I have ignored these things; do I serve a purpose; is it better or poorer served by angering or embarrassing the recipient; what does the record show about the yield to these people of moderate and polite letters; why did I do the letters to begin with?; and can you think of a better way or a way in which you think there is a better chance of any kind of success or response.

You should now see why I wrote Kelley when and as I did. What I may not have told you is that before the Repub. convention, when my car was parked nearby, I tried to see him and couldn't. He'll remember and he'll remember from it that I tried to avoid making a record. He also knows that I agreed not to sue the Secret Service if they would give me the memo of transfer. I think his ill-tempered if superficially polite letter is quite helpful, especially if I go to court.

With Rhoads, I wanted to needle him. I haven't sent copies of these as I did of that to Marshall to EWK. This time Marshall gave me what I regard as reasonable openings and I think I took them. If you feel otherwise, I know you won't be bashful.

Marshall did promise my Senator that he'd not give access to anyone.

Do you now see some of the possibilities for attempted constructive use of this mess? I say possible because we can't know the end. And I couldn't care less how much offense Marshall takes. Or Rhoads. If they get made enough they'll make more mistakes, and I don't know of any mistake they've made that has hurt us, except Marshall's granting access to anyone.

Cyril: Only the CIA's can be less than disgusted. He may be content with the attention he has gotten, but some flak from those he knows know is necessary. Moreover, there should be an indication to him that he can hurt himself and his income and his professional standing.

Best, HW