

1/3/71

Dear Dick and Howard,

I couldn't sleep this a.m., so I got up at 4 to listen to a tape of an interview made by a conservative friend, at my request, of Bringuier. It was a considerable frustration, most of both sides of the bud being blank and the parts that were not containing little of value. So, I've been using the time for odds and ends of things. Before waking Lil, I decided to write you soliciting comment on my painful letter to Paul over what I regard as a very stupid thing he has done. I am aware that you may find my wording of a nature that he may resent. In part it was because I just couldn't take time for niceties and if I had I'd have said less than I felt I should and in part because I want to shock him, if that is possible, into realization of the stupidities of some of the things he does. All of this troubles me much because I can't exaggerate how bright and normally responsible he is. His approach has always been ultra-conservative, untal that melon shit. You should see some of the nitpicking he has done on some of my work (while also catching real mistakes and making really helpful suggestions). I just can't figure it. I confess this. Nothing I tell myself makes sense.

I can't exaggerate the importance of the Ferrie material, and I can't exaggerate the need for doing with it absolutely nothing until we have carried it further. In strictest confidence, because I think I sent my analyses to neither of you, it is absolute proof, carefully obfuscated but subject to no possibility of any other interpretation, that Ferrie did know Oswald, and it also leads me to believe (I am really persuaded) that this is the real reason he fled N.O. that night. There is more, but this is the most important. And, it has the names of those from whom more can be elicited. The more is the thing. I had decided to lay my suit aside for now, electing instead on further correspondence, but that to be delayed until after I can make an inventory, page by page, of what has been declassified. If I had the dough, I'd go there right away and get every page, for that is more than Johnson can re-review while being copied. I've been trying to promote it from the moment I got the menaingless (and incomplete) list, which is even less informative than the "Basic" list, containing just numbers.

If weather permits and if I'm not too tired, after today's early arising, I plan to go to Washington in the morning, to start this and to see if I can either hasten or delay a scheduled physical-therapy session of Wednesday, getting that over with at a time that will not break up that day. I'd like to stay with this at the Archives until I have made a complete list. Meanwhile, with Wil beginning her tax season in the morning, her trans-orientation needs further complicate what I can call a working day in DC.

I have to go to Wilmington Friday for a suit I've filed against a distributor who owes me money. This may coincide with Howard's plans to come here. If it does, he can meet me there and drive back with me, which would be better for both of us and give us more time together. The bastards have offered to compromise for about a third, and I've not accepted it. I think it possible that, faced with court, they may better the offer. If they make an acceptable one, I'll settle, and thus the trip will be avoided.

Returning to Paul, I am troubled, very troubled. I suppose this is part of why I couldn't sleep this a.m. I am generally troubled by what I can't understand, and there are few things that I do not wind up believing I do understand. In combination with the melons, it raises questions I believe are susceptible of innocent explanation, but this is less certain than with the melons alone.

At the same time, even if it is probable that most declassifications are innocent and may well be of what should not have been classified to begin with, I have enough of a sample with the Ferrie and Valle stuff they've sent me to know that we must be exceedingly careful and that skolnick- or Garrison-type use would be disasterous. Some of the people with whom PH corresponds are of this or worse character, and several are in touch with both, lovingly.

Hastily-hope you had good holiday,