

9/9/67

Dear Jonn:

Suddenly my mail (or at least what reaches me) is prompt. Yours dated 9/9 this a.m., that dated 9/3 spent three days in your pocket, for it was postmarked 9/6 and arrived yesterday, when I began to answer it and now cannot find what I then wrote.

Your reactions to separation from your family, I think, get me, for I have unaccountably been edgier than I remember since then. I suppose my decision to really stop smoking and other things contribute, but I've got the mental shakes and my body resonates to them! There have been a few problems otherwise, too, like the kitchen work not getting done in the new house until I got a lawyer after the cabinetiers, who now guarantees performance by end 9/11. My need to go up there this p.m. inspires haste and what for me may be brevity.

Hal Verb phoned me last night and says you have copies of the galleys of the N.O. book, etc and many other surprising things. He did a fantastically successful p.r. job for me last time I was out (the only time we've met).

It is so there would be time for such breaks as you've arranged with Grimsby that I had planned three days in SF. I think there will not be current spot interest requiring that much time. If I know in advance, I always am able to arrange something exclusive for each. I'll have something photographic for Grimsby, and fresh, as I did for that station last time when they aired me on their early a.m. show. Very good, and thanks.

Of course, if I just rush down to N.O. and take staged pictures, it will look as you say. However, the back cover already has such a picture, taken in his office 5/2/67. I think I'll have a press conference there, and I'd be surprised if he didn't have the curiosity to blunder in, when, if he'd like the book, which by then will be in the mail anyway, I'd give him. He actually wants me to stay there and work for a couple of weeks.

I doubt if Jim can come out and say what you'd like. However, some of that is said by his writing the foreword, which also puts his name on the cover. I have another idea of how to arrange the other, like by asking why some of the former assistant counsel do not debate me. Liebel, for instance. There are other, legitimate ways of accomplishing the same thing, I think. I also think the first date of the Shaw trial is at least a month off.

It seems to me that what happens during the case may be as important as the decision. I can conceive of Garrison losing the case on a technicality and having a big victory on the fact of the case. To me, the evidence he gets in is what is most important, next, the play it gets. Should he, as you put it, "blow" his case, without doubt the effect on all on the same side would be bad - worst on me. But I do not believe he will. If you actually have the galleys by now, you should have a pretty good idea of what I have, and that is fairly persuasive, I think. This, of course, is one of the reasons I wanted the appendix in the same book. Those pages of documentation are impressive. However, once you see the galleys, or the book, I think you will understand that I was making no real sacrifice in following principle, that what I independently had is one bona fide investigative report entirely my own. This made it easy to follow the procedure I did, asking not what he had but what did he have that I could help with, or where I might have some dovetailing knowledge. The net effect of this preserves the integrity we each have. But it also is why I do not know what he has dug up that I haven't. I think very little more than is in the book will do it.

If I'm more than usually disjointed and the typing is housier, it is because a combination of things has been working on me, climaxing with a sore tongue just when I've stopped my heavy cigar smoking. I was down to two a day from 30 when a cigarette-smoking guest arrived. Until last night I was back on them. I've been 16 hrs without a puff and I'm wondering if one would ease me off enough to be worth it or whether the real way is to bull it through, just stopping. Period.

I think what Marguerite Oswald was referring to it either a picture ~~has~~ she has and I do not or something she sees in Altgehs that I do not.

The mentions of CBS and Capitol I also note and will wait. I'd like your opinion on what I did with CBS, which requires introduction and conclusions. Hal is favorably impressed with it. It can be part of a brief to FWC. I think first it should go to CBS lawyers, who have been silent, maybe to Salant, who might just be unaware and who would then not be able to say he was thereafter. I'll begin Phila. 9/19 and probably part of all of 20, and I may be able to see a CBS vp, who manages a station there.

In reading the letter to O'G, M and N, I am waiting to hear from John on the Dell end. When I was in NY we brought to a head some things he had done nothing about, in the presence of Gallen, who is a lawyer and was Dell's general counsel. He thinks he knows how we can get an accurate count. The deal is John was to speak to those he has been dealing with on a very blunt basis. Either they straighten up and guide right, with the dollar sign and to the decimal point, or we sue, and if we sue we include damages. Lacking any contrary indication or information, I presume John is doing this.

I note in this letter, re BankCard, what may have happened at CBS. I doubt if it did at AP. I'm more inclined to think this is what happened at NBC.

Re: end page 2: there is a statute of limitations. I have done nothing to now because I have but so much time-stretching capacity, and it is weakening, and because of the subject matter. Others are changing the level on the latter beyond my capacity to control. You should, I suggest, think of this also in terms of the movie end - would it be good or bad for that - for, although that may at the moment be not encouraging, I think it in the end is most likely of coming to something.

I wish I thought that when I'm out there we'll have lots of time to just ramble, for there are a number of things with which I have no connection that I think could interest you. There is no time for writing. I have the research done for the most unusual civil-rights-race case of years, but had to lay it aside. You might be able to do something with it - a nonfiction movie on the hottest domestic subject? Things like that (and boy does this one have the sex potential - clinical, that is.).

The last two days work has not gone well. I've written an appreciable part of the text of the coming book, but reading it, the way I feel and the mood I'm in, is not fun and not as good as it could be. I'll have to slog again. It is about deadline if I'm to make the mail, which is always fast going out Saturdays.

Until I hear from John, there is not much more I can say right now. I'd like to get my mind free so I can do some thinking, but it is concentrated on getting this next writing done. I'm almost tempted to travel on the coming trip by train so I can write while I'm doing it, between stops. If we could line up a speaking tour say next year, I think that by using train I could get some writing done. Never tried it,

The Popkin piece I told you about after I spoke to Mayer and a fellow I know in NY is now out. NY Review. Not sold Frederick. If you see, latch on. Probably only reading it will tell me how much of my stuff he has picked up there (about which I can do nothing). I expect the old technique, mentioning my work as his or without credit. He'll probably write favorable of Garrison, though. Best, Hal.