

8/20/68

Dear Al, and Steve when he returns,

Had a chatty note from Steve today. He reports "Al Swartz sent me the new newsletter, so I'm informed to news as of 8 August". I recall now that I was sent the first when it appeared. I have gotten none since. I'd like to.

Steve does not know his prediction the appeal would not be made to the Supreme Court is inaccurate. Appropos of that, I have informal dope, not from the office, that the defense expects the rejection of the appeal and will then stop stalling. However, this will delay until after the first of the year. I think they'll change their minds, if this is correct, and try and concoct another, even though they are ruining Shaw by their tactics.

In my opinion, for whatever it is worth, if and when there is a trial it would be good for Steve to be there as a volunteer with the press arrangements. However, I doubt if the office will offer coffee and because they are that broke. His backgrounding could be helpful. If I am consulted, I will be all for it. At that time perhaps I can arrange quarters for him. I expect to be there. I think he could and should be there on his own unless Jim asks him to act in a capacity. There is every reason for him to be there. If he lacks and needs a reason, he can be my helper and I'm a "publisher".

I'd like him to be able to read and edit the new book, but he is in Europe and the book is done and I now haven't enough copies. There is some immediate interest. I have learned that such things are not necessarily significant or dependable. In this connection, it is a week since Louis told me he had for the second time okayed somebody out there sending me something for it. I haven't gotten anything. It is so long since I heard from the Washington Committee, which offered more material on Wheat, that I left him out entirely. I have heard nothing from them in about 6 weeks. I doubt if I can now add it. If there is a private printing, perhaps.

Steve's knowledge can help, but I think he'll find it is not from the 26. This is not that kind of book.

There has been another strange death, that of Philip Gersci II, father of the witness. I cannot by this public medium tell you what that means. I interviewed him, fortunately by tape, the night of 7/20. What I got is quite significant. He is an electronics expert who was, on the basis of what I now know, mysteriously electrocuted yesterday. The office knew nothing. Until I know a lot more, I am unwilling to believe it an accidental "accident". If there is anything at all in the papers on this, please send me, no matter how seemingly minor. There will be nothing here. As of now I have a call in to Art or Jim to tell them what I can. They are not in. Generally, if your papers carry anything not in the N.C. papers, I will not know it because nothing appears here at all. I'd appreciate copies of such thing. Some might mean something to me.

Best to you all.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

16 AOUT '68
PARIS, FRANCE

HI HAROLD!

WILL ARRIVE LOS ANGELES 26 AUGUST. WITH TIME TO
ADJUST TO THE 8 HOUR CHANGE, I'LL BE READY TO RESUME
WORK.

AL SWARTZ SENT ME THE NEW NEWSLETTER, SO I'M
INFORMED TO NEWS AS OF 8 AUGUST. I WAS GLAD TO HEAR
THAT JIM TOOK CARE OF HIS HERNIA. ALSO GLAD ABOUT THE
SHAW DECISION. YOUR OPTIMISM WAS WELL FOUNDED, USUALLY,
I AM OPTIMISTIC ALSO, BUT THIS ONE SEEMED TOO MUCH. I WAS
WRONG. GOOD.

I DON'T THINK AINSWORTH, HEEBE, or COMISKEY WILL SEND IT
TO WARREN/FORTAS. WHERE ELSE CAN THEY GO?

I OFFERED TO HELP BEFORE & DURING THE TRIAL WITH
PIESS ARRANGEMENTS - MEANING COFFEE AND WARREN REPORT
FALICE ROUNDING UP. I KNOW WE WON'T SAY ANYTHING ELSE OUT OF
COURT. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT AREA, I THINK. WE'LL SEE
WHAT JIM SAYS.

WILL YOU BE IN NOLA FOR THE TRIAL?
HOPE ALL IS O.K. WITH YOU. IS HAL STILL AROUND? IF SO,
SAY HELLO FOR ME.

IF FOR SOME REASON THE TRIAL IS DELAYED, I'D LIKE
TO TAKE A CRACK AT EDITING THE NEW BOOK. BETTER WRITING
MEANS A BETTER CHANCE OF PUBLICATION. I THINK THAT MY
KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE WILL HELP - AND I HOPE YOU TRUST
ME ENOUGH. I KNOW ITS A BIG JOB - LONG & TEDIOUS. I'D
LIKE TO TRY, ANYHOW.

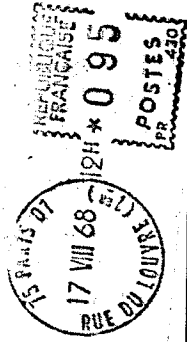
THE TRIP HEIKE WAS MARVELOUS. I'LL TELL YOU
MORE ABOUT IT LATER.

HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON.

D - -

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