

7/25/73

Dear Roy,

While missing none of the Senate hearings and keeping up with the extensive news coverage, I have also continued writing. Aside from bits and pieces written for use as text or as notes and reminders, I now have 20-25,000 words written from the top. Oh, I have done a fair amount of writing.

In the absence of a contract which would call for delivery of a rough draft in about five weeks, I believe the book will be better for keeping up with everything. This is why I didn't drop everything else and write.

So far, aside from the personal performance of the various witnesses and principals, nothing has been a surprise. In fact, it was easy to write some developments before they happened. (I do this from time to time not in vanity but as a check on my understanding and accuracy. Not that it doesn't please vanity.)

There is no change in the planned content, for only new details have become available, not new facts or meanings. However, the sequence, while less uncertain, is not yet certain. The material, as I am sure you realize, is extraordinarily extensive and complex. Yet it must be kept comprehensible and made to appear to be simple. One of the factors in this is the order of presentation. While I am undertaking to write with easy re-arrangement in mind, I would prefer for this not to be necessary.

So, having decided on the beginning, I began. More than I can write in the next two weeks with the time taken by the hearings and other things is set in my mind.

All of my recent writing has been with materials that were diffuse, extensive and complicated. With these books I found in every case that the only way it worked out was to let it work out. In each case it did. It will now, too.

My purpose is not only to give you a progress report. It is to inquire about your silence. It is long past the time of Dr. Gross' anticipated return from Germany. As his going was delayed, so also on his return he. However, I believe he said that if he had an answer before the time of his return, he would phone you.

If you have no word, you have no word to give me.

However, if you do have an answer, it is important for me to have it, particularly if it is negative.

If you remember what I said, it is all happening as I said. This, among other things, convinces me that I have an important work.

In addition, there has been an exceptional shift in public attitudes. People are eating up Watergate as though it were Chateaubriand. Aside from what I get from apolitical people, I have other measures. ABC, for example, has not been content with its third-day presentation of the rotation. It has pre-empted 100% of its TV time for Watergate all this week, as it did with Dean.

Whatever it is, when you have definite word, I would appreciate hearing it.

Best,

Harold Weisberg

7/28/73

Dear Dick,

With no hearings today, I worked my way down in the stack until I came to the letter I wrote Roy Wednesday and had hidden by the time I went to the post office Friday. A copy is enclosed. I assume, with this long delay, that the probability is that Gross came back with a rejection of the idea. But I'd like to know.

I take your silence to mean no encouragement and that you are busy. The number of publishers who are going for books is growing. And the odd thing is that all those I haven't mentioned to you are public domain. But with big numbers talked about. Nothing new. Perhaps that is the formula? By baddies, like Dean and Magruder.

Meanwhile, the outlines of the ploy grow clearer. Cox is an ideal guy to string it all out indefinitely. The crazy has actually rejected my request for copies of what is both public and has been published. If my purpose were to contrive a situation to sell books, which it is not, I couldn't have done better. Today I appealed his denial to the A.G. If that gets into the regular channels in Justice, they automatically reject all requests. They are trying to undo the law in court. Including with me. I have a case that should be headed to the Supreme Court soon, against Justice. Now they deliver this one? Also crazy.

But none of these books, unless it is that of the Post boys, can still come out soon. Their by-lines have been uncommon. Today, for the first time since the two paired, there is a single by-line, of one only. The first of either in several weeks. Yet they can't be ready before the hearings are over, no matter how much is leaked to them in advance. I suspect they are busy writing what they've gotten hold of.

If you've watched any of the hearings, you know it is mostly show and politics. No single witness has yet had a vigorous examination. By anyone, senator or lawyer. The Establishment at its anti-Establishmentarian stupidest.

Meanwhile, I write every minute I can find, usually very early in the a.m. As I write and as things develop, the concept looks better and better and the formula closer and closer to 100% safe. On this I never had any doubt. Being all alone and handicapped in other ways also, I haven't been able to go out and get other evidence I am now certain is available. As it is, I've developed more than I told you or Roy, good stuff with real meaning.

Only something quite exceptional will stop me now. Among other considerations, the book seems more essential than it did only a few weeks ago.

So, if your silence means you are out of this, please let me know. I don't have any idea what I would do, but at least I'd know and I'd be able to.

I also have concerns about your silence on the legal matters. I assume you stay busy. But I have also had no response from Manny, so everything is in limbo and I'm tied. Dutton, for example, has promised to deliver the remainders I bought, and then didn't and fell silent.

So, when you can find time, I'd like to hear from you. Preferably not when the hearings are broadcast, which usually begins at 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays I take my wife to work and am usually back by 9. Tuesdays and Thursdays I take a walk after breakfast, to exercise and to think. Evenings I'm generally home.

Best to everyone,

Sincerely,