

Route 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
11/15/72

Dear Jesse,

It rained like hell all night part of the way up the easternmost of this first range of mountains from the coast. On the other side of the mountain part of the way up which we live it snowed. (Camp David is about 10 miles by air - don't know what it did there but doubt if anything good can happen there.) So, tonight I have the first fire in the fireplace, and it reminds me of you.

When you get this it should be exactly a year to the day since that very pleasant afternoon at the Commander's Palace. (Odd that Charlie Gresham's friend now figures in the news, isn't it?) If you don't remember, I told you I was snitching those gold-tipped wooden matches because they are hard to get here and they are better for starting the fire. You must have cleaned the joint of them! I carried them from New Orleans to Dallas to Chicago to Wisconsin to home, very glad to have them. They more than lasted the winter. (No hint - I've plenty still, thanks.)

As I probably told you, I was not in New Orleans on JFK work, although I spoke to several people about it. I had to leave you to keep an appointment with Sal Panzeca, got there late and had an hour to kill, and spent it with Dean Andrews, until Sal was free. But you must have brought me luck for my trip to Dallas the next day was one of the more successful.

I hear little from New Orleans, and each thing I do hear is crazier than anything before it. Shaw is lucky. He was foolish to file the civil suit, or let himself be talked into it, which I suspect is the case. If the T&C people depend on Garrison, they are lost. I don't know any of them, but as I told Sal, without telling him what, I have what should defeat Shaw. I have nothing against him, as you know. But I don't think people should suffer unfairly because they have means and a willingness to use them for what appears to them to be socially-useful purposes. This also is not something I was seeking, for I've never had any real interest in Shaw, never cast him in the role Garrison did. However, this is not something I have given Jim, either. I have dupes out of my possession and only a few trusted know what it is.

I ramble. My purpose was to thank you again for that warm afternoon on a tiring trip, being reminded of it by the warmth of the fire your match kindled.

Best to your wife. And a good holiday season to all of you,

Sincerely,