

10/14/71

Dear Ned,

It is late, I'm tired, and this will have to be brief. I enclose a note I wrote Sylvia tonight after phoning her, a copy of tonight's letter to Mac, who I saw briefly today (he had finally, after long effort, achieved a success that is important for our area and for the country, of which you will learn, but it sure loused up his schedule for the day- I waited 45 minutes after our appointment time and then he had only the time between his office and the floor of the Senate).

The crabon will be clearer, so I'll send you that.

Mac agrees with the possibilities I see. He offered to talk to Teddy. I suggested that Teddy ought be kept out for now, and Mac said his administrative assistant, who was with us, knows the right one of Teddy's people and would speak to him. I spent a few minutes more with the AA back in the office, showed him a few things, and then, of course, had to leave. He also agrees on the potential, as anyone with political savvy would.

I got Jim Mesar up early. He is the only one of Bud's committee who to me is solid. To be certain that we'd have enough time to go into it in detail, I arranged to park my car and for him to walk with me to several places I had to go. We did much, much walking, part of what has me more tired, and much talking. He also now agrees on the possibility. However, I asked him not to talk to his own people, who on this are wierdos to me. He knows something has been going on with Cyril, doesn't know the details, and will get them. There is absolutely no doubt of the accuracy of my reporting. Bob Smith told it to Larry Finery of the Chi Daily News in my presence after asking him to observe confidence (not me, as I now recall clearly, just Larry).

Sylvia says that as of her last word from Cyril, which as I recall she said was in August, Marshall had told him to go to the Archives. If Marshall abdicates, legally it is the same as agreeing, so the distinction, which is really irrelevant in any event, is of no real meaning. If Bob was not accurate, it makes no difference.

I have not heard from Cyril. I will not write him again. He can apply or not as he sees fit. I know him well enough to know that if he is pressured he'll get more independent. If he doesn't respond in any way after my letter, that is his decision. I think I left some areas vague enough so that if he wants to understand he'll have to ask. I know I had that intent, but I was tired and upset when I wrote him.

I did take the new last part to the copyright office early this morning. And Lil is working on typing corrections on it for me to post. Meanwhile, my mail, including important mail, is tacking up.

This is a political rather than a factual situation. From what Sylvia reports of a letter from Gary he appears to have misunderstood you at least in part. But the central thing is is Cyril going to apply. Sylvia repeats what I had known, although she had not told me, that she had encouraged him to.

For some reason Jim wants walnuts. His hands were well stained from them. He may come up here for some this weekend. Although it is irrelevant except for establishing the accuracy of what Smith says, and I regard that of no consequence, if he does I'll know more about that situation.

But please understand that regardless of what form it takes, not matter how diffident of seemingly discouraging, once Marshall refers Cyril to the Archivits, that preliminary provision of the contract is met and from there on the decision is entirely within federal determination.

I'll hear from Mac of his AA soon. If there is anything to phone you about I will. Otherwise, I'll write you whatever I am told. But I think it best not to get others needlessly involved in this, especially when they lack what is required for understanding or recommendations of any kind. I didn't spell this out for Sylvia for several reason. One is that there is no need to advertise the potential to those to whom it might not occur, and another being I want her to think independently. If she rereads the contract, as I suggested, and asks herself the questions I suggested, she'll see enough. Jim did. That is that way I handled it with him, and he could follow the leading questions with no trouble. If I agree that the chances are again the government doing it, I see no reason to run any risk. All Jim could say in defense of it is that it could lead to publicity. Best,