

10/10/71

Dear Ned,

There is an error in PM:124. What I quote from is a Specter-Adams 1/23/64 memo to Rankin titled Revised Outline of Subject Matter of Phase I". Instead of the ref to the appendix I have corrected this by inserting:
Of it, what is here most relevant comes from", etc, and cite title.

Progress report: We both worked all day yesterday and I got up early today. I don't know without checking her desk, and I don't want to turn the light on - it might awaken her. But I have posted all corrections through p.66. Or, about half. This is a tedious process, for I have neither the space to spread rubber-cemented pieces around to dry nor the skill in its use, so I use magic tape to affix. This means that I must burnish each piece patched on and with great care, or the entrapped air I might not remove will come out as a shadow. The U.S. Atty from Baltimore, due here to negotiate or pretend to negotiate on our old suit for helicopter damage to out farm is supposed to come today. He was due Friday and didn't come. This will require little of Lil but full-time for me, so she'll probably have a big backlog of corrections for me by night. But what this progress means is that she has this much of the new part also marked up for indexing on her indexing set.

We have a plan for the future when we can find a few extra bucks and some volunteer help. We will get stamps with the initials of each of my books, on each of which we have the index cards from which the indexes were made. We will then stamp each card with the appropriate initials. After each of the boxes is done (and on COUP, for example, we have 3,600 cards, we can merge them and have a consolidated index of all my publisher work. I think you'll be surprised at the amount of information this will make available. Then, as I finish each book and the index is typed and checked (we do this word for word), we can add it. The need for help will be in consolidating cards to reduce bulk, so that for most entries we'd have but a single card. I can stamp them as we watch the evening TV news and get it done that way. I think this can, eventually, become a valuable research tool.

I have written several who may be able to shed some light on Cyril's plans. I hope that he will think this whole thing through after he gets my letter, recall that long ago I told him how we can perhaps break this open based on the work I have already done, talk to me about it, then join in complaint against the for. path's, which would be an entirely different approach with an entirely different end product, one not almost guaranteed to frustrate truth and misplace blame, make another enormous and unjust scandal.

In the little time I've had to think, I have come to feel that approaching K is not now the best approach. It is in part because he has his own past to justify, in part because he no longer needs or expects anything from the Kennedys, etc. But as a means of reaching Marshall, who responds (meaningfully) to neither kind nor sharp letters, it might be a good idea in extremis. I still feel that the best way is to go to Teddy's people by whatever means seems best. I have written a Senator and there are a number of administrative assistants to whom I ~~go~~ can go. One is Herb Jasper, Mondale's. He was shaken and scared after he left the Archives with me. Gary arranged his interest. Perhaps Frazier is a means.

Despite your dislike of it, I think that if as much space remains at the bottom of last pages, I should use it for short documents, where I can reproduce the entire page by no eliminations or of white space only. I have deleted all the page references in the text of both parts. Lil will get to typing those corrections as soon as she finishes this. I think an alternative will work better, using this machine, with a new ribbon (much smaller type) at the bottom of each page with on "See pp. and the nos" for refs to the appendix. I have gone over suggestions received in the past for I and posted those I'm making. Most unnecessary or already caught.... If Lil can't locate him today, there is a new local Apeco rep with no phone listing under the company name. See met him. He has a demonstration machine that, if I can get to use it myself, I'll use instead of xerox and save the cost and time of a trip to DC. It cuts the pages to a preset size and repeats automatically. If it doesn't collate, that is no major problem. If this is possible, I'll do it immediately not only for c'right but to have a copy for any of Teddy's people, if needed.... One of the reasons for eliminating all textual refs to the app was that some might have to be deleted. Some certainly. Best, HW