

10/7/71

Dear Ned, J 9/25

Sending you a pile letter does not single you out for abuse. Our situation is such that if, as is presently the case, I have an abundant supply of better paper, the time will come when I will not, so I always use everything to the last possible time.

I had to leave this a.m. to meet a psychiatrist who went to his office long before hours to talk to me about a former patient I had met and with whom I had established as much rapport as one can. She has talent, is virtually incapacitated by her troubles, and I thought (correctly) I detected suicidal possibilities (in her recent painting). Regardless of the pressures I have, for something like this I had to take time. As it turns out he was quite pleased with what I had done, told me what I may yet be able to do and under what circumstances, what not to do, and how I may best be able to encourage her to return to him. He will arrange her hospitalization if she is willing, so it was a good deal, not a busybody waste of time.

There is now about enough time before lunch for further info, but probably not to go into the "development", which affects me more than you, but does both. I enclose a carbon of the letter I'll mail Lyle Stuart in time to make tonight's outgoing mail. When I heard nothing from you after raising the question about him and from two others I asked to make an approach, I decided that, with the new problem we may face, I'd best get it over with. I know he is a schizo, part man of principle and part crooks, with an enormous greed and a compatible ego.

I think the letter says what there is to say, except why I did it this way. This letter will reach him. If it turns him off, we have lost nothing, because that is the way he is. In the past it has been the only way to get his attention. I am hoping that it can again. At least it is an effort, which is better than nothing, for without an enterprising and industrious agent, there would have remained nothing. This commits no more than a willingness. It does not commit an agreement. It is an invitation to discuss.

When the Chicago Daily News reporter was here yesterday, I did more than try and entice the possible interest of his syndicate (which he can't really influence) in PM. He knew when I invited him the day before (and then arranged his transportation that I had this specific purpose, and that was enough to get him here when he has only a few days in Washington. Once he was here and I had done enough to accomplish that, I established an additional bone fides by showing him Chicago files and giving him copies of whatever he wanted. Free. It is no more than open-handed intent to be helpful and friendly, but it was real, he did go away with what he wanted, and it established a kind of relationship. His last words were that if he couldn't sell the syndicate, he'd look forward to reviewing the book and he'd make the effort to get it assigned to him. I didn't suggest this. And if he gets to write a story commemorating the anniversary, I'll be part of it, as will several unnamed doctoral candidates, also Sylvia, instead of the whole thing being the counterproductive Bud's committee, which is the way it would have been.

And if that happens, there are several Chicago publishers who may see it, one being Quadrangle, where Ivan Dee was always friendly, if he is still the guy who does the operating part, as was Brisk, if he is still President after selling it. Thus it can serve as a new introduction, one that might get them to take the initiative. If they syndicate, the prospects of some of this kind of feedback are better.

In some way, and pretty soon, we are going to have to approach Teddy's people again. Whether K is the right way, or through the man you met, or another way I've not yet doped out, I don't know. But I feel strongly that as of now we have little time. If I make any attempt, you'll know. I am considering one, another Senator I know. Maybe Prazier, maybe Ondale (or his son or son, Jasper, who I've met and impressed).

Best,