

Dear Paul,

5/15/74

Your 5/6, mailed 5/10, is extremely valuable. So valuable that as soon as I read the first graf I phoned Jim, told him to connect up his tape recorder and get each word of the quotes exactly right. He did and shares my opinion of its value.

The judge had ruled for the government on exemption 7 but for me on "national defense." While the emphasis of your fine quotes is on the latter, it is apparent they include all exemptions.

I had just asked Jim to try to force the judge to make a choice between charging Rankin and me with perjury, and he seems to have agreed to try to work something like this out if it is legally possible.

And because there was false swearing that I believe crosses the line into perjury in each of my FOI suits, I have finally interested him in that. (I am confident this is why we lost on spectro and more because despite repeated promises Bud never addressed it even though the appeals-court panel seems to have spotted the significance of what Jim and I got into them, ref their footnote 5.) What I mean by this is that Jim and I have been in accord on this from the first and that while Bud has been, he alone held back.

Jim will be here tomorrow. Among the purposes is to gather some of this false swearing together. I'll know then whether he has written the judge already or has a draft for me to go over. I've forgotten which he said.

He wants to write an article on what happened in spectro and what it means. I think it should be done but believe by one not a party. I don't know what short of it we can do except by a course of action I have tried to follow for several years. I think Jim has now come to the same decision. I want to file a civil suit for money damages to those who by all the bad feasancess have denied me my rights and damaged my writing thereby. He will handle it is we do it, probably seeking occounsel. I know we are going this route on the major purpose of his coming tomorrow, where in a civil action a prestigious lawyer let the statute of limitations runs on me. This will require much work of us both, quite aside from the too much we both are into already.

I was confused on your Entry 20 comment in your 5/10. Jim asked Eckhof for those 23 pages and was told there are scads of boxes. If you have not sent us these pages, I do think Jim should have those notes for whatever we can still do. Esp. re Ex. Sess 1/27/64.

I will, of course, read your ms. as soon as I can. But please do not expect that to be fast. I have several minor but lingering medical problem, the more serious of which is disbalance. It limits what I can do. And the weariness has become so oppressive I have slowed down enormously. Meanwhile, the amount of work on the place is tremendous, in two heavy instances from accidents, one of which required digging three feet deep from the house wall to the well to find it because the footvalve dropped off the bottom of the pipes and we had no water. I have most of that earth moved back in place and distributed where I needed more, on the driveway, but when at my age all this has to be done by hand it takes time. There will be a wellpit to builtm the rich people who built this place actually never having done that (thus we did not know where the well was). The dam that feed the pond has to be repaired and I could get no help. (This, moving heavy logs alone, except for Archimedes, seems to be how I pulled a muscle that sent me to the hospital), and a recent almost-hurricane dumped at least a ton of various kinds of debris along the top of those 20-foot logs that I now have to remove by hand. Were this and keeping the land (total, 5 acres plus is much in woods) just mowed not already too much, both my old riding mowers zonked out within a half hour of use after both had been overhauled. So, hand and aching foot again! For the first time, the problems of poverty are in themselves becoming oppressive.

And I have an offer again for a Watergate book. While this is an unacceptable offer, it confirms my judgement that the time has come for the book I have in mind and I am starting (have t rice) another "underground" book. But all these intrusions and not feeling up to snuff impede.

The actuality is that we are both so weary we both fall asleep sitting up. I don't mean just once in a while. I mean regularly. It is not all physical, either. We have been through and are, in fact, still in, enormous emotional drains. When they combine with the physical, well, I hope you never experience it.

So, with everything I am much slowed down.

To the degree I can I must give priority now to this WG book because I do have a considerable amount of the significant that has either not come out or had been suppressed. If I had a research assistant and an editor and a real publisher if anything could make the difference, this could. In toto it is that much.

If those Fiorini stories are indistinct, forget about them. But thanks. As of the moment, in the book I now project they are not necessary. I would want them as a matter of files completeness chiefly because the chances of these files ending in a scholarly home are now good. Two interests.

I think it is the Whites who sent me the story saying that Agnew's files when deposited at the U of Md contain one on investigations of the JFK assassination. I immediately took it up with a local history prof, who happens to live in College Park, where the U of Md. is. I have also asked that he have a check made to see if there is provision of Md. law that permits withholding. I'll keep you posted if and when I learn anything.

There is a strange ~~phenomenon~~ phenomenon about the JFK assassination and spectro. The few who were so interested in the east who have talk shows did not call at all. like Jerry Williams. In fact, the only talk show that did is Jim Eason, who did yesterday and aired me live on it. No preparation. I got the call while he was reading a commercial. I also heard from Vevin, Zodiac news out there and a few others who mean nothing to you. Of the major media, the only ones to call are UPI and ABC (don't know whether TV or radio unless both are one). Even friends at NBC and CBS didn't, and UPI's was after their first stories. They filed at least two before this. One represented some time and work by the reporter, who did not speak to either Jim or me. Court records, but attributed to me.

I know of but can now say no more about the RFK thing in LA by Baxter Ward, who is running for governor. He spoke to me. He is too timid to make it. But I also understand that Neguchi unloaded heavily if it gets attention, as it has not around here. I was told this by Kevin.

Your help was great. I hope not too late for us to use. I wrote Jim another long memo on ways of fighting several days ago, and this coincides with it. I think he is in essential agreement with some of my arguments, but we'll see tomorrow.

I think we agree that all the judges are hungup on exemption 7. And I know that we are on the terror in the courts if not the country, probably largely due to WG.

Best regards,

CC; JL