

3/9/71

Dear Jim,

A new day! You yesterday's letter here today!

Foreman on Griffin: you sent pages numbered 1 and 2. Is this all? I've read that and it seems both incomplete in itself and less than I was told transpired.

Thanks on Hanover. When I give you some carbons Thursday, if I haven't already sent them, you'll be updated.

Nichols: He is an arrogant, egocentric, intransigent, unappreciative crook and a madman. If I had time I'd probably think twice before helping him, and I haven't time, so I won't take the little to think twice. I think the faster he is out of the courts the better we will all be. Bud asked me to go over his first complaint and send him a memo, which I did. It took as much time as writing a book would have. It was a thankless ~~task~~ task. I let him see my stuff in confidence because it was my literary material and I wanted to a) develop it more fully and b) be able to use it as I desire in my own book. He was excited, wrote me of his excitement and envy, and reaffirmed his word that he wouldn't use it. Thereupon, as is child's play, he proceeds to duplicate some of it and copyright it in his own name (which he also did with a joint project of Bernabei's and mine) and proceeds by other devious means to obtain what I had shown him in this confidence and then to accomplish two things: misuse it and take the edge off of it when it is used properly.

How can one help such a man? I went to Kansas City (as it turned out, thanks to Army Intelligence, at some personal cost) just to warm up his people, including his lawyer, before he found his insatiable ego incapable of masking. I've tried in every way I can to help the scum. It was an enormous waste. He has done nothing since proving the irrelevant, that Kennedy has Sdkinson's disease, except cost us all anguish and the waste of enormous time. I made the enormous mistake of recommending him to Garrison as a backup for Wecht. They made the larger mistake of calling him instead of Wecht. They were so sorry. "e antagonized everybody and his arrogance was entirely unhidden.

I am glad to get the decision. I'll read it with care as soon as I can find time and I will do a memo on it, but I will expect it not to be sent to him. And if you for a minute doubt what I've said above, which is far from the whole bill of particulars, or if you consider spending time on him, I encourage you first to waste some reading my file of correspondence with him. Increasingly it becomes apparent to me that there is only so much we can do. I think we should stick to the immediate and the promising until we have the luxury of free time and then we should try and help the tractable, those who can be helped.

Moreover, despite his polish and reputation, I lack confidence in his lawyer. He has much less on what constitutes a "record", for all his professional skill and legal experience, that I do in the papers I filed last month. There is too great a risk this can get worse. Because there is no possibility of reasoning with him and no reason to believe he'll do as he says if he agrees, he's liable to go in almost any direction and do more harm. His lawyer knew all those diverse things didn't belong in a single suit, which Bud told me, yet he did it. The consequences were predictable and predicted. I know I did to Bud after reading the complaint and I am reasonably confident Bud agreed at that early date...And I ask you re think of how many I have refused to help. They are few and they do not include people with whom I disagree where the reason is because we disagree. There is no single road to truth and none of us has a monopoly on any. But only those who seek truth, not self-exaltation, can be considered pilgrims.

I'll probably phone you about what I got from Werdig before I come i, and I'm writing him today, letter for you.

Best, HW

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March 8, 1971

Dear Harold,

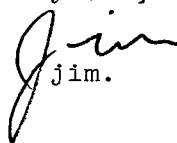
I am enclosing with this letter 1) a copy of the transcript of the Kunstler-Foreman exchange ~~on~~ on the Merv Griffin show, and 2) a copy of the decision handed down by the Judge in the Nichols case.

I spoke with Nichols last week--he called long distance from Kansas--and one of his lawyers, who used to be clerk for the Judge in this case, thinks that they could get the Judge to reopen the case to consider giving them the materials which the Judge did find to be a record but withheld on the grounds of the Davis affidavit. The Davis affidavit is discussed on p. 11 of Judge Templar's decision. I would appreciate it if you could write me a short memo on the Davis affidavit and bring it with you when you come in on Thursday.

Simmons at the Archives tells me that after a search he finds nothing on the fellow in Memphis you asked me about (Hanover, I think), but that they would not necessarily have indexed the name of every person interviewed by a government agency in regard to the JFK assassination.

See you soon.

yours,


jim.