

1/7/72

Dear Mary,

Hope you and Buck had the wonderful time you should have had. Things were kind of bleak here, so I'll get right to that. What I had feared is not fixed and is the impending reality. You will remember I had said that the government could always arrange a synopahantic examination of the withheld Kennedy materials, which would be a whitewash, but that a genuine disaster would be a recognized critic seeing this stuff and coming out to say what everybody knows anyway, that it doesn't support the Report. Well, the first is set. Whether or not the second will happen is, as of my last knowledge, still not set.

You should remember Dr. John K. Lattimore, Presbyterian Hospital, NYV (Columbia U.). He has asked to see the brace and Ace baddage (can you imagine a doctor needing to see these things?) and it has been agreed to. Soon. I anticipate he will then come out and say the only reason the President didn't fall forward from that shot to the head is because the combination of supports prevented it, thus he was shot in the head from the back and whatever else may or may not be true, this was the fatal shot, Q.E.D. Had I not found out about this, I fear the consequences might have been worse. How successfully I have countered it, how much more, if anything, I can do, I don't know. I have made the immediate efforts I could and I plan a few more things.

There is nothing new to attract attention except what just cannot and will not give away. There is little or nothing that can be done to incriminate those this will exculpate, and so far as exculpating those who will be made to appear responsible, as a personal thing, that is not my interest. Truth is, these have made their own defense an impossibility, and their own trusted, Burke Marshall, despite his promise to a Senator, is the instrumentality. With such friend, who needs enemies?

As soon as I first got wind of this, yesterday, I was tempted to phone Arch and lay it on the line. Everything he says he believes in and wants is about to go kaffloey. If it is without effective counter, it will, whether he now sees it this way or not, be in part his fault for he could have made possible this availability. He declined. I did everything but ask him and he avoided any response. My own feeling, frankly, is that in his grave his alleged principles will do him as much good as his wealth.

But I decided against phoning him. Perhaps I was wrong not to. First of all, I'm not going to beg. Secondly, there was, in the back of my mind, the remote possibility that if there was any chance, no matter how slight, it would be better with someone he had known longer and better.

I've taken a few steps with the Archives and the appeals officer and perhaps laid the foundation for a civil action for damages against them personally, not against the government. Their employment is not license to do wrong, and I was the first to ask for some of this stuff and was as recently as last year turned down in court on some.

If Lattimore alone is allowed to pull this kind of dirtiness, I may have done enough priming for it to backfire. I should be haunting offices in Washington, but I simply can't afford even the gas and parking money. Our bank interest is due Monday. I'm afraid to ask if we have it. And she hasn't said. So, I'm landlocked, and I can phone only where I can reverse the charges. Limits me much.

I think Arch will come to have the deepest regrets about being so chinchy. I fear the time may come when I'll have to do some of the documenting, of those with big mouths and bank accounts and little real doing of anything. Had those of us of means done what they could of without ever feeling it, much, if not all, could have been different.

For more than a week, we've had company, which curs down the output. For about a week I may have a chance to catch up on some. Happy homecoming and hope you are all better,