

7 October 1973

Mr. Larry Finley
Chicago Daily News
401 N. Wabash Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60611

Dear Larry:

As one of this great nation's most respected Janus watchers, you should be alerted to the enclosed Reuter squib from Taipei, just in case you haven't seen it or its equivalent.

I feel this follows with appropriate promptness Mr. Kissinger's taking over at the State Department, and that in any case Mr. Janus' willingness to up his reward offer from \$5,000 (the last I'd heard) to \$100,000 indicates a powerful urge of some kind for movement in the Peking Man sector. Perhaps Nixon needs another trip to China. His European trip seems to be withering on the vine, and one to Japan -- never any great shakes -- could bounce on him if the Japanese go on resenting the Midway at Yokosuka. How better to juice up another Peking visit than to arrive with the long-lost bones and take them personally from Air Force 1 to Mao in the name of eternal friendship? Watergate? What's that?

By way of background, I personally suspect that Janus' activities may be a sideshow to prepare a phony explanation for the "discovery" of the Peking Man relics. As you know, Kissinger is supposed to take off again for Peking soon, and who knows what glad tidings he may be bearing? As you no doubt know, the Chinese Communists take the position that we stole the relics somehow, and it's a sore point with them -- at least that's what they say. Also as you may know, we say the relics were lost in December 1941 when a company of U.S. Marines, en route home from the embassy in Peking and taking the relics with them at the request of the Chinese authorities to prevent their falling into Japanese hands, was stranded and captured at the North China port of Chinwangtao on Pearl Harbor Day. What apparently is the official American version of this incident is contained in an article by Dr. Harry L. Shapiro in Natural History for November, 1971, which should be in any good library. Shapiro is the Peking Man specialist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. His language is normally scientific until he gets to what actually happened, whereupon he becomes unscientifically vague. He does say that removal of the relics had been discussed earlier with the Chinese but does not say what was decided, now how much earlier. The two Chinese officials involved were Dr. S.T. Wang, then head of the Peking Union Medical College where the relics were kept, and Dr. Wong Wen-hao, at that time a cabinet minister in the Nationalist government in Chungking and later Chiang Kai-shek's ambassador in Washington and at the United Nations. Both died some years ago.

Since Janus went into his little dance I've developed the suspicion that the real relics were taken out by us, possibly in diplomatic shipments, some months before Pearl Harbor and with Nationalist concurrence. If so, it would mean they've been stored somewhere ever since, that we've not been interested in returning them to the likes of Chiang Kai-shek and may have been saving them to butter up the Communists when buttering-up time rolled around.

All this is intended to provide some perspective for judging the actions of a Greek heritage buff who has developed an inordinate interest in things Chinese simply because he and Henry Kissinger both belong to the Harvard Club.

It occurs to me that some anthropologist at the Field Museum might have ideas about this, but I'd suggest a cautious and very vague and innocent approach. These guys all know each other and what's going on, but they also usually work closely with the intelligence community, especially those who travel abroad on field trips either for actual work or on junkets to buy specimens. Unless I knew someone at Field quite well, I wouldn't even try it. No point in spoiling the show before it gets on the road.

To keep him informed, I'm sending a copy of this to HW, who tells me you've been under the weather in some way I cannot now recall. I hope you've mended and that all's well.

I realize that any story about the discovery of the Peking Man relics is unlikely to break in Chicago, with with Janus in your bailiwick I thought you ought at least to be filled in just in case. If you need more, just ask.

Sincerely,

James D. White
35 Castle Rock Drive
Mill Valley, Calif. 94941

Reward for Missing Man

Taipei

An American millionaire has offered a \$100,000 reward for finding the missing remains of Peking Man, which mysteriously disappeared 37 years ago.

Christopher Janus, a Chicago investment broker, said yesterday he had gone to China in his search for the 500,000-year-old bones last year but had discovered new evidence on their whereabouts.

The missing remains, which include a tooth, a

skull and other bones, were unearthed at Choukoutien near Peking between 1927 and 1929 and identified as the bones of human beings who lived between 500,000 and 650,000 years ago.

The bones were the first evidence of man's early existence in eastern Asia north of the Himalayas. They mysteriously disappeared in 1941 during the war and are popularly believed to have been smuggled out of the country by U.S. Marines then serving in China.

Reuters