

Dear Larry,

9/9/72

The "hell-with-it-all" attitude you describe is not unknown to me but it is part of my past. Once I got ~~in~~ into the assassination thing I came to understand that it would be a continuing futility and I'm no longer thrown by them. I suppose you find this wherever there are humans, regardless of the character of their society. Probably more in a corrupt one like ours. In your case, if I may pose as a shrink, it may come from a combination of two things: inhibitions imposed upon decent and honest reporting and the futility of the negotiations when the Guild fatcats become finks, as is not uncommon, and the drones don't realize it and use their greater number. The best solution is generally a head-on one. Not slashing wildly but coping as best one can cope.

However, the "new romance" is always indicated, if not as therapy, for itself.

You may have detected overtones of my approach in the thing to Lesar that you just returned. Jim is really powerless there and the only one not a nut. However, because he is without real influence, is kind of junior (by which I mean with the best intentions and a fine mind but entirely inexperienced) and because his personal work habits are an atrocity, that whole damned thing is becoming too much of a futility for me. I can't cop out because they are hopeless and helpless and Ray is the one live defendant not psychotic and we can't lose in court without corruption greater than I've ever seen- and I've seen plenty.

Collectively, they don't know the elemental fact of the case yet and collectively they are captive of the stereotypes of the law. They can't conceive imaginative approaches, don't know how to work, won't see what does not originate with them, and are incapable of learning from experience. They are now, belatedly, doing what I asked be done from a year and a half to two years ago. It was obvious then and it is late now.

Two month ago they were sure they'd have their habeas corpus petition completed within two weeks. They are the lawyers, remember. I told them they were nuts. The petition, in whatever draft - and I've refused to look at another until it is what they decide is their final - is not yet done and the addenda, which are extensive, are in most cases not begun. Frankly, since I'm not the lawyer, I regard the time I've put in on this a total waste. It is much more time than required to write a book. It is also costing me money I don't have. So, I'm disgusted. However, instead of doing as I have in the past, just passing it off and taking it, I'm raising a bit of hell, giving them whatfor, etc. This doesn't endear me, which concerns me not at all, nor does it really get them to think, as it should. It can serve two purposes (aside from temporary venting of emotions): to get them mad enough at me for a break after the Ray thing is over (and to make it easier for me then); and to perhaps scare them about what I might be capable of if they don't stop fucking up and wasting my time. They have a pretty good idea of that of which I can be capable, too. And, when I've done all the meaningful work that has been done, beginning with getting Bud his client and including too damned much of the legal thinking; when I've given him his entire case; when I've gone out and collected the material needed for affidavits (he actually asked me to stay away long enough to type them up and get them notarized before I returned from my May trip), I just won't take the kind of personal abuse that has gone with it. You may not find my approach congenial or appropriate, but I'm having nothing to do with them on anything else. Frankly, I don't know of a single worthwhile thing they, collectively, have ever done. They've messed up quite a bit. Bud most of all. So why continue this kind of relationship, engage in more needless futilities?

For a variety of reasons I've already cut myself off entirely from some, mostly from others, and have reduced my correspondence to people I like or the couple who do any real work at all. I spend time that accumulates with only one "critic", a very bright and very decent kid who needs some guidance and help in maturing. With the few others, it is in some areas only, where I know they have worked or will again when they can (like after one completes his dissertation). After I get out from under many accumulated problems, some of which have taken and will take much time, I'll be able to write again and get on paper that which I so long to. The fewer the timer-wasters among the nuts and incompetents, the sooner this will come and the faster it can then go. Thus my approach to the "to-hell-with-it-all syndrome.

I'm not telling you to ditch the Guild, though!

However, confrontation with emotional problems is important. I learned this too late. We have too many, going back to the impossible, the ruin of our farm by military helicopters. I was then and continued to be too passive. Bad medicine.

Those old Andreas clips are useful. Doesn't it strike you as strange that no paper consulted its morgue on him when he began figuring in the Caper? All explanations thus far offered make no sense of the alleged desire for anonymity. This history of wheeling and dealing, of attempted sales to the USSR so long ago, and of family financial crookedness, put it in a different perspective. I wonder if the case in New York ever came to trial? Remember, Nixon and his Mitchellisti got rid of Morgenthau under suspect circumstances having to do with not prosecuting people. Anonymity, in fact, is the one explanation proven false. Andreas was at the convention, sat next to Pat, and aside from scant society-page chitchat mention didn't make the news.

I know fall is near. We never see a skunk in the daytime. We have regulars who call at night, never in anonymity. One in particular is mismarked. His stripe runs the wrong way. It is 10:30 a.m. and he is on the hillside below the swimming pool, about five feet from it, making his way toward the house rooting out grubs. He'll raise hell with the sud. He is no more than 40 feet from the house now and is paying no attention to us at all. We use the kitchen door without his notice. Stik: 40:15!

Haven't seen Washingtonia. Can't afford any magazines. I have a great interest in Matcha the Mitch. A westcoast friend and I independently came to the same conclusion: she liberated John, not herself. She may not have realized it, but that is all that she did accomplish. Her protest at "dirtiness" makes me suspect consciously, because she could not live with him as long as she has and find dirtiness objectionable at this late date. So, I'm interested in anything about her. I take you mean in saying she hasn't been seen both in public and after the resolution of her personal soap opera, for she was seen in the NYC area after she left Calif. But since then I know of no case of a n authenticated sighting. She hasn't even used the phone recently, to the best of my knowledge.

The Wecht thing is not simple and his ego will now complicate it more. I don't see the kind of story in this worth printing since the truth won't be, that he became part of a get-Kennedy operation. The one mystery to me is Burke Marshall, who is not a dope and should be aware that he could bring nothing else to pass.

I don't think either the panel of Lattimer incompetent and I'll be quite surprised if Cyril has found as much in the autopsy film as I have without it. (Strike 15 feet-three!) Moreover, he lacks context and has personal animus, and has done really stupid things. I used to have high regard for him, professionally and personally, but reluctantly I came to believe that whether or not consciously he is really on a ego-kick and seeks personal gain. he is one of the few pathologists who takes mapractise cases. and this is as close as he can get to advertising.

He said nothing about what he saw when he was interviewed, remember. He merely took credit for what was in all the original writing, adding nothing to it and not doing it as well as the worst of that writing. This confirmed my suspicions for me because he knows his business. Therefore, I concluded that my initial assumption was correct, that he'd saved what he got, including by unethical means (and that includes my work), for a big deal in the medical press. My candidate, without any knowledge or clues, is The Journal of the Academy of Forensic Sciences. My chief interest is in knowing when it will appear in the event it becomes necessary to do something to counter the inherent evil.

He didn't understand the panel report when he read it. I sent it to him promptly and then had to explain and translate it for him so he could testify. It is that bad. He and the guy who headed the panel have a feud going. The panel report left relatively few secrets. They covered themselves as well as they could under the circumstances. Of some of the few secrets they kept, Lattimer reduced the number. Our people just don't understand the kind of language used. The key to all of this is semantics. If you read what I did with the panel report, one of the three parts of POST MOREM, you should remember this. The panel and I did lay down the official line with what disproves it only. This is the part Cyril either has yet to understand, even after reading my work on it and my personal explanations, or withheld from you because he hasn't see what hasn't already been seen and I have enormously more than that.

In spite of what he said, there is NOT a ~~xxx~~ picture of the throat from the front. It is a side shot. It shows the gaping skin at the incision. It doesn't and can't show what the required but missing front shot would show. It is all already in my work and it was discernible in the panel report. Here I have carried it much farther than any existing film or pathologist can. There are no reasonable doubts remaining. And it has been written

for a long time.

Marshall was not "hysterical". It would be easier for me if I could believe he were. He was excessive, wrong, argumentative and many other things. He has from the first done exactly opposite what the interest of his official client required, beginning with needless contract, continuing with needless approval of the panel report, etc. That is not the same ~~and~~ as and is closer to the opposite of hysteria. If coldly calculated, it could no better accomplish the one purpose it has served, blaming the Kennedys for all the official transgressions.

"His findings". Horseshit! I'll go out on a limb in advance and tell you there will be nothing significant and new to me, nothing significant not already in my writing (which is one way of saying less than I know), and I'll add a probability of error on his part. He is now too hungup to be the dispassionate scientist. Unless he makes radical changes in his approach and writes entirely other than he has spoken, it will not be necessary to drag anybody out to refute him. I do think his written work will be more substantial and I do think it will be opposed if it gets any attention outside the small journals. But only to hook the Kennedys even more. He is really farout if he suggests that Lattimer is a "Kennedy friend". He is politically right extreme and knew none, not even Marshall.

I'm disappointed that you are surprised that he has received no threat. Who should threaten him when all he has done is obfuscate and blame the wrong people, or to put it more directly, help those from whom threats might come?

He has not said anything new, said the wrong things only, so why should anyone be uptight ~~again~~ about him? And if he produces what he can, a solid work, it will be rehash and thievery, some of which is not even hidden. I've broken off from those who did the stealing for him. He did some himself when I trusted him, like the picture he copied, pretending he was making me a better copy.

It is all very sad, Larry, and explains why we have accomplished so little. All the people who have the means to make it possible are ego-ridden, incompetent and selfish. They all yearn to go down in history as the one who broke the case. In Bud's case, he still dreams he will solve it, produce the actual assassins, and I think he still has illusions that he knows some of the horde required by his concept. For such noble purposes, they find nothing unethical, selfish or counterproductive. So, we don't need enemies, don't have to worry about threats, and all the wierd stuff that issues make it easier for the press to ignore or downplay everything because it is legitimate to say they have destroyed credibility and the average editor is not a whore when he just say, "Oh, hell, more of this nutty crap!" He has seen so much insanity he concludes we are all insane and produce only the insane, and the net result is that our own dedicated wrong have done nothing but validate the official fiction. Cyril has carried this a step farther by helping them pin the whole thing on the family as it relates to errors in investigation and suppressions. My first break with some of the so-called "critics" is because they are hungup on getting the Kennedys. The only comparable hangup is that of the Kennedys.

I've taken this time to try and make what may seem incomprehensible comprehensible to you. I hope it has, has not confused you more. But if you have any questions, ask or phone.

Meanwhile, I hope you won't play the Cyril/official game of publicizing what should not be. I tell you that not one bit of the suppression is the fault of any Kennedy, living or dead, whether or not I liked him. I tell you further than the Graham story was skilled in selecting what it would say. The half-truths do what outright lies couldn't, and they result in bigger lies. Even when some of Bobby's people may have held the sealed package, it was still government property except for the clothing.

I abandoned an enormous amount of work and what for me is considerable cost in some lawsuits I could have filed when I realized I'd be playing into official hands. I am not getting them into a different context, as I have long had one, but I won't trust Bud to handle that one (he is also a get-Kennedyer) because he doesn't know the material and won't take the time from enjoying his wealth to learn it, preferring his wolder dreams to reality.

One more thing that may give this perspective for you: two years ago, when this probability of becoming an unintended official agent became apparent to me, I wrote Cyril and said I had worked out a foolproof way of breaking the thing if he would work with me. He has yet to reply. We have much communication thereafter. So, I should have had more serious doubt about his motive and his selfishness then. I confess. He is determined to get credit for all the work he refused to do or help with and he will get richer from it. That simple.

Best,

Sept. 4, 1972

Dear Hal,

~~Sorry for the long time between letters. Things are pretty bad here~~
right now. I was the victim of a nice little coup myself. A handful of the Old Guarders and conservatives of the Guild managed to pack the election meeting and bingo I am now out of office as unit chairman. It was very skillfully done, even to the point of having a ringer announce and then resign before hand. One of the ring leaders even tipped me that such a move was going to take place and then said he had managed to squelch it. I'll get em in January, but that really fucks up the negotiations. It burns me that the anti-strike people are the \$300 a week and over people.

I'm afraid I can't offer any help on Rife. To be frank I don't trust my friend in Springfield, for reasons I can't go into. I can't get down there myself. I still am on the negotiating committee.

I talked briefly last week to Wecht, although I haven't done a story on it. He said he is preparing a long and very detailed report on his observations. His main conclusion is that Clark panel and Lattimer either purposely laid down the establishment line or are all incompetant, or both. By the way, he says there is a photo of the throat from the front, although it is more a side shot. I believe I remember you saying you didn't remember one. He is quite angry at Marshall. He said Marshall got "hysterical" about Wecht's comments. He predicts that some more Kennedy friends (doctors) will be drug out to try to counter his findings. He said he has received no threats at all since the publicity, which surprises me.

The latest Washingtonian magazine has interesting speculation on Martha the Mouth if you haven't seen it yet. It says that no one has seen her since the famous "political prisoner" comment, although she has talked to some locals.

I saw the LA Free press thing but have not yet found a copy of the Realistx. No one seems to carry it around here any more.

I am rapidly lapsing into a hell-with-it-all mood that bothers me. Maybe I need a new romance or a long drunk or something.

I throw in a couple clips on Andreas for what they are worth. How much would it cost to have the Bremer thing copied? I could copy it here a little at a time. I'm on the 4 p.m. to midnight trick for two weeks to fill in for a vacation.


finley