

12/18/76

Dear Howard,

Thanks for the clipping on the staff of the new committee and for the others I have not acknowledged. They are helpful because I've had to let all my subscriptions except to the WxPost lapse, having no time for reading the magazines. If I were to get the Star I'd see the morning edition at supertime.

Regardless of what you hear or read about this new committee it is off to a very bad start. It is doing rotten things without the possibility of accident. I have had my own dealings with it and have ended them with some vigor. If it is not terminated by the Congress as of now I expect much evil from it. To date there has been nothing but assorted kinds of evil for none of which there was any need.

I have been in Washington a couple of times since I saw you but not with the time to drop by any of those days. Yesterday I picked up another 500+ pages from the FBI and was able to persuade it to edge a little closer to observance of the law.

What I am obtaining relating to King is going to make a fantastic archive. It is going to be costly as hell. However, I've survived the first and immediate financial crisis by a week of seminars and speeches at one of the more conservative of the Univ. of Wisconsin campuses, Stevens Point. With the honorarium I've started a bank account in Washington for him to use to pay for the xeroxing and other costs.

Not a bit too soon. Within a day the CIA levied a search charge of half of the account for records it is now opposed to produce. The FBI is consuming the balance at a rate of about \$50 a week with related xeroxing charges consuming an additional \$25 of so. I'll return to this.

The reaction of conservatives to solid fact and a refusal to conjecture, to an addressing of what has happened to the basic institutions of our society, is very encouraging. The most conservative of preachers delivered laudatory sermons. The students were great. Townspeople, including Birchers, were in all audiences. The reporting was straight, extensive and fair. All very good.

I've started to deposit an archive there, with what I could carry. Up to and including the chancellor they are enthusiastic. But unless I can show them sources to tap for funding that will not interfere with their day-to-day needs the funding will be slight for the present, limited to the most essential housekeeping needs. But they have already made audio and videotapes for lending to schools and public-broadcasting uses. They received requests during the week.

If Richard Curtis comes up with an advance on my new book on the King assassination carbons of the unread draft of which I sent him I will use it not for living better but for working better, for paying the costs of the continuing investigation and if I can find one a research assistant. Please keep a candidate in mind if you know of any.

Curtis read the books, a big dose, expressed admiration, asked for my phone number and since has been silent. I hated to send him an unread and very hasty draft but the realities of my life left no choice. I also referred him to a publisher I knew had an interest in that subject, was looking for a book on it and had been referred to me. I can complete a draft rapidly by letting other work go. I've told him I do not care how the book is edited or cut as long as what emerges is faithful. Earlier this week I asked him to let me know what the situation is because someone else has offered promising help. And because of a novel situation I can't now take time for.

As of now I have no plans for being away from home for at least several weeks. If you have some free time during the holiday period it would be nice if you could come up.

Best to all,