

3/5/74

Dear Dick,

Long ago I learned that the vindication of time in their lifetimes is a curse to those who live with the controversial. So I expect nothing except the gratification I have just had from an incredible record in my early Watergate notes. They record with accuracy what is much more incriminating than anything that has yet emerged from under all the many official blankets.

However, it is physical exhaustion that turned me to catching up on filing after I finished reading these notes in an effort to locate some missing materials. The controls fall off the bottom of the pipes in our well, which entailed much work and for us much cost and more digging and shovelling than I am now up to. I am simply too tired to write.

I enclose the carbon of my letter to Shepherd because of interest you have expressed in the past. On CIA I gave him just a glimmer in that rough. But he didn't understand it and he didn't understand the import of the Gray chapter not because it wasn't lucid enough but from shock.

The official conspiracy to cover the CIA is enormous. So are the crimes of which I have irrefutable, documentary evidence in my possession. Some of what was suppressed. Of that, some comes from one of the secret hearings whose secret purpose was CIA protection. Regardless of what the papers said. I know two who were there and have some of their stuff. "Their" meaning a committee's.

What I have is safely duplicated and out of my personal possession.

I have been intending to write you about other matters. Some of them trouble me about you, so I begin openly. It has been quite costly to me.

Of those legal matters you said nothing could be done about I have effected a settlement myself. No lawyer. I got more than 100% of what I had asked for originally and our debt to the bank is reduced by that much, more than \$5,000.

I asked you to please get back from the personable disaster to whom you turned me over after you said you would represent me and then decided not to those papers I had entrusted to him. This was after he failed not for the first time to respond to a written request. When you didn't I asked a new friend. He did try. But by then Manny had fled his office, leaving nothing there. Then other men in that office say they have no idea where he is. And more. What, the hell am I now to do about those papers? Or what Manny has done to me? I just don't see how it could have been so big a deal to you to get those papers back. Perhaps it was in a way you did not indicate to me. But it is costly to me, as other things were.

One of these you may have forgotten. It was so long ago you were still officed at Parallax. Meredith owed me money under a contract (on which I have yet to get a penny) and for what amounts to if it is not plagiarism, the unauthorized use of an entire chapter of one of my books. I turned this over to you when they said they would pay and settle. You said you would handle it. Nothing has happened since, except that Meredith sold to Hawthorn and all that means to me.

You, fortunately, live comfortably. What is picayune to you is significant to me.

This and other things are so unlike the friend I have always considered you.

I have difficulty understanding any of it.

And I would like to.

Not on my initiative I have two Hollywood feelers on one aspect of my work, the least known.

With what has been going on, like the kidnappings, I think there should be some interest in one of the subjects I proposed to you last May, what I have on the paramilitary right.

If you know where Manny is, I don't have to. But I would like those files back. I can still do something with them. And will.

Sincerely,

Shepherd

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701

3/5/74

Dear Mr. Ober,

Under date of 1/22/74 you returned some pages I had sent you out of order, pages you had not returned with what I had by then written more or less consecutively. I was tempted to write you then and say "you will soon be reading about some of this in the papers." I felt you might take it as smart-alecky and I didn't want to risk offending you. However, if you read the papers, this was ahead of them and, although as I recalled you described it as tendentious where it was critical of the Ervin committee, it was exactly correct and the committee was forced, when it was too late, to attempt to retrace and recover. Instead it pooped out. It had suppressed and it was ruined by it.

This is not all it suppressed. Some of the other pages I sent you, roughs not then and not now read and made largely as notes because of the problem of encompassing material of such enormity, address what you may also be reading about. Again the unprecedented: CIA indictments. I now have more than enough evidence against the three top men, some of it what was suppressed by more than the Ervin committee among committees.

I am by no means certain that this will happen. I am certain that it was considered. The charges of which I have enough to use in court include perjury and obstruction of justice.

You may recall that I open the book by attributing a deliberate covering up to the prosecution. Then it was not ever mentioned and nobody, including the great liberals, would consider it. But were it not true, would there now be these new indictments and those yet to come? This is not to suggest what I do not believe, that these new indictments are of different character or intent.

You may remember I had a long chapter or a short book on L. Patrick Gray. What was entirely ignored. Indicting him may not be avoidable. I predict that if he is indicted, the charges will be less than is in that chapter written so long ago.

If you have been reading the papers, then you know I was in advance on the Howard Hughes/Habozo/Nixon stuff for recently it has been all over, from the "Ask Anderson" column to the front pages, but with less than you read long before this began to happen.

I am reminded of this and much more with which I will not burden you by a combination of two things: going over the extensive notes I made before I became convinced that there would be no contemporaneous, definitive work on this unprecedented subject and all it necessarily entails for all of us and began to write; and coming to your January letter in catching up on filing. My review of the notes is to retrieve mislaid material from the enormity. Despite a considerable self-confidence in my investigations and analyses, I am quite pleased at the regularity with which I accurately anticipated events in writing and that with these notes all prior to the Ervin hearings there is no error in them and they go into much of significance that has not yet come to light. What is depressing, aside from the fact that there appears to be no publisher interested in a definitive work and would say what he wanted, the only way this can be enclosed within single covers, is the magnitude of the material refused by those who have won respect for their reporting, including but by no means restricted to those who won the Pulitzer.

It is not merely that this kind of work is unpublishable, which is bad enough. It is also that nobody in all of society gives enough of a damn to be willing to do anything. Including, of course, government, which is responsible for all of it.

Your discouraging did not stop my work. It merely convinced me that I had to attend to other matters, not neglect them as I had been doing. I am continuing my work, should you ever learn of any potential interest. When I have completed it, it will be a series of books, not one. My only alternative is quitting. And as of now I have every reason to believe it will include what all official proceedings will have ignored. Everybody is afraid, which is how there came to be a Hitler.

Sincerely,