

12/29/76

Dear Dick,

I've begun to get my personal files from the State Department, late and incomplete but fantastic in the story they tell. If you have forgotten, I was one of them then fired in 1947 without explanation, charges or hearings. I drew four of my scholarly colleagues together, two were Margaret Mead's proteges, got us a good law firm and became the first to beat a loyalty rap. A bumper rap never was.

A simplification that will not indicate the dimensions of the story of which this is part is that the cops were making policy. It happened with Israel shortly thereafter, when Truman's was not State's policy and State annunciated its own, not Truman's, at the UN. Truman told Clark Clifford, "They've sunk me."

You may remember I told you I've found another Seven Days in May in CIA files. I have obtained, some of which I began to read when I was staying with you. The reality of this actuality is more frightening than the plot of Seven Day.

I'll never write either. I can't write what I want to. I may look for others to do it. In fact a Times man has been talking to me about a book about what I've done. I do not know if seriously.

But this really sinister actuality of the silent overthrow of a system remains such on my mind, generally each mornin, when I shave, before I get to work. It did again this morning.

I do not know if State will give me more files now that I've made a case to it of their existence. The Orwellian practise was their's in 1947. The records do not even show the firing, the recommendation for firing, the fighting back successfully, etc. They show only that I resigned, as of the date I was fired. My resignation, the one I wrote, does not say that. No matter. They rewrote history.

That was a period in which there was residual anti-Semitism in State, particularly in the cop minds so many of which were attached to eastern European names. I had always fought anti-Semitism, particularly that by the Dies committee, and was strongly for the creation of the State of Israel. So there was more against me than that I was a democrat.

The FBI has produced not a single piece of paper on me and their alleged lag is long past. The CIA is still stonewalling. There is no doubt I will have to see when I can. I hope this is closer. Which is why I write. Long ago both you and Fred promised to send me all the legal work in Barney's case. I had seen I think the complaint and thought it good. The work done on that and any other cases of which you know can be important to me and Jim, who is still in sole practise and trying hard to work himself out from under what the sixth circuit did to him in ordering him to continue as Ray's unpaid attorney.

I do hope you can get a secretary to make and send these copies when there is time. Some of what I've learned may amuse you. There never was any basis for questioning my loyalty. So they had to invent sneers, which they did through the undereducated and backward, probably with a little intimidation and inference, too. Well, what made me dubious character was having lots of books. Suspicion was added because I worked into the night and my typewriter could be heard at all hours. Some of the simple sick stuff. There is worse. Garbology began early for me, long before Kissinger protested it. In 19540 they were collecting my garbage and taking it away. The mail cover disclosed the horrendous: I received George Seldee's newsletter on the press and my wife the cooperative league's publication. (She was put on the subversive list for belonging to cooperatives, two or three of them!) American Nazism, with soft brown shirts.

I am getting along well, by and large feel fine, have learned to apply what I learned from Dr. Segal and as of now from him alone, have reorganized my office and my life to cope with what it all means. In bad weather I use an exercycle, which is boring as hell but works the leg muscles which recirculate the blood. I can easily do 15 miles at 15 mph now. I do it to the also boring TV news. I've begun to deposit my records as an archive in a university system. The reception when I spent a week in lectures and seminars was fantastic. Conservative preachers interrupted prepared sermons for praises. They will try to find some way of arranging funding if the other needs can be met with the present money situation, with the understanding that if someone does find and wants the deposit elsewhere it will have to be. They have begun the nuts and blank bolts part and were excited by the CIA and FBI papers I gave them. Best to all, with hopes of a good year for you all.