

10/16/71

Mr. Dick Gregory
1451 55 St., #1050
Chicago, Ill. 60615

Dear Dick,

Today's local paper carries the enclosed notice of your speech here this coming Wednesday night. Hood College is less than 10 minutes away from my mountainside home, where you'd be more than welcome, for supper, for the night, for any combination of your choosing, including relaxing of a kind you may not find often because of the unique environment we enjoy. You understand, of course, that while the invitation includes the so-called "wild" species with which we share the spot, I can make no commitment for them.

I think I can assure you that if you walk to our pond and say "Hey, Brother Bass", some will come and give you an enquiring look. And should you call out "All Golden Trout are my brothers", they, too will give you the eye to see if you are for real. If you talk before you get to the pond, they will hear you and await your reaching the shore. All promises subject to the weather. If it gets colder, they may stay at the bottom.

This message may not reach you in time, you may elect not to accept our invitation, or it may be impossible for you to do so even if you should like to. Our finances haven't improved, especially since I haven't even gotten the second installment of the "advance" on FRANK-UP, so we can't make special arrangements. You can take pot luck or there is a different and quite-good country-style eating place 10 minutes away, if you are not still fasting. Our water is great. Natural. No chemicals. Our own well, rich in the leachings of the subsurface rock as it comes down under the mountain.

I can save you car rental by meeting you at any of the three possible airports. We are about an hour from National and only slightly more from Dulles and Friendship. And, if you are interested, I can update you on my work on both the JFK and MLK cases, the former definitively and the latter provocatively but less than definitively. In strictest confidence, because I must keep my two lives separate, I am in regular touch with Ray, have interviewed him inside the jail and in some depth, and have learned a few to me interesting things from him. There is also the likelihood of further suffering by the King family I think you might be able to frustrate, should you want, to.

There may be a development locally that may or may not interest you for your speech. Hood is less than five minutes from Ft. Detrick, which has been the center of bacteriological and chemical warfare. It is my private information, as of this past Thursday, that Nixon will be here Monday and will then announce its conversion into the center for cancer research. "Here" is about 10 miles from the place Ike couldn't bear to have called Shangri-La so he named it Camp David in honor of Nixon's to-be son-in-law. It is now Camp David.

There are many aspects of my work of which you have no knowledge, many things in which there has been no black interest until now, when I have been able to be of minor service to Greg Armstrong through Walter. (Remember, I wrote you about Danny Groth before he murdered.) It may still be possible to overcome what I think are overights with the Solidad Brothers, Attica, Rap Brown and other cases. Hope you can make it. If you can't, I'll be there, before, after or both.

Best regards,
Harold Weisberg