

Dear Jim, Re Grossman, Weberman call

7/25/74

Those NYC devils had a coven meeting last night when Grossman called me back. I am glad you happened to call in between so I knew the purpose of their call to you and had had a chance to think a bit. Lil didn't want me to talk to them at all (good judgement) but I decided to waste time to take another tack. It appeared to me from Grossman's earlier call that they had actually gone to the Archives for the first time expecting to find evidentiary milk and honey flowing only to find an obdurate Johnson who said only his equivalent of "No Spik!" (Also no wonder- they wanted what the Archives doesn't have.)

Their interest is in the tramp picturoa and they now don't trust even Sprague. His pictures are airbrushed and Weberman will prove it. He came back to an offer to me over and over again, to let me see his great work. He was stinned when I said I now only was not interested but would not take ten minutes for it.

This reflects the approach on which I had decided, to talk down to them with patience while offering to help them in anything that wasn't greasy kid stuff.

Grossman appears to be only a front man. When he first called at about 10:20 a.m. he said "This is Wexler and Sporty calling." When I asked if he were Mr. Wexler he did identify himself. He also said it was not convenient to call then because he was busy at his place of business, could be call back in the evening. Policoiff had told me he had been pestering him for Skolnick so I had that preparation from months ago. When he called back he asked if he could put Weberman on the phone. I told him I had no objection to them both on, an extension. Grossman never took the phone again. Once Weberman had to cut off because he said there were too many people there talking at once! He called back in about five minutes.

His great discovery is that the small tramp's face was airbrushed out in one picture. I said not in mine and I had original prints from 7-8 years ago but suppose it had been later, what difference with none of the stories of those men and pictures being true? Well, it is roall Hunt and the ear proves it. I said identical ears on different faces? Elastic surgery? For what? I said I knew it wasn't Hunt because he had an airtight alibi and I was confident it wasn't Sturgis because things don't work the way they conjecture except in fiction and only in the poorest fiction at that. It worked around to where I Skolnicked them: if you want to do the spooks' work for them, that is your affair, but I'll not be part of it. Kinda chocked him. To think that he was doing the spooks' work. I assured him they have whole departments for this kind of disinformation because the more extreme the criticism of them the more they like it and the more effectively they can use it behind the scenes, where it counts. Exhibit A, his obscenity- and I called it that- of last 11/22/73 at the Archives demonstration which did no good and to my knowledge turned off some responsible attention by major media, which had contacted me. No, Cyril is not all that great. I had refused two solicitations to apply to see the film because I was not about to play "their" game. What game? Well, the one Weberman fell for in using the Graham article that exculpated old J. Edgar and blamed the comedys, who had been divorced from the whole investigation-sneaky LBJ and JFH -- and had never had possession of the stuff. What about the missing brain? Big deal. I'd worked on it in 1966 and decided it had less value than other evidence which I then proceeded to obtain. All that film stuff, subject to taint and tainted, is passe. Cyril fell for their ploy. There was more of this bit I give you a sample.

I baited them with Skolnick, who talks against the spooks but never fails to do their work. Farewell America was a spook job. Valle, the stuff he stole he misused and closed off what could be relevant (here my pool was dirty except on the theft but there is a limit to what nuts can't tolerate by way of truth.) The D. What crash? Skolnick had helped the spooks by spreading all the nonsense and covering up the truth. What is the truth? You don't think I've going to give you guys a chance to misuse it do you? You only go for spook nonsense and misuse everything that way. Not me.

He pretended to know Skolnick only, no more. I didn't argue. I was merely tolerant of infantilism, patient with children but utterly indifferent to all their great discoveries. I told them they had belatedly latched on to the irrelevancies of the past and were spinning their wheels and should ask themselves why. Be interesting to see if it does any good. They are now also talking of new Jack Beers pictures. HW