

Dear Levin,

6/8/77

If as I think is possible I left with seeming inpoliteness yesterday this was not my intention. I recall we were standing and talking and then Bud pulled that kid's trick of tapping me on one shoulder and moving in the other direction when Hall came.

He had come up to me earlier and asked that we be together after the hearing. So when he and his lawyers left I had to leave with them. We did spend some hours together later drinking and talking and doing a little reminiscing.

I earned his trust more than nine years ago. I am one of two only who write of whom this is true. The other is Art Kevin. I have never known Kevin to lie. Moreover, there is something I want you to know personally. You believe whatever you want about the way your ham-head with ham-handedness did or do not do.

Hall was a very sick man after he defeated Garrison's effort to force him to go to New Orleans to testify. After we spent some time together he agreed to go voluntarily. This was my stated purpose when I interviewed him then, to get him to go voluntarily. When he agreed he wanted me to be with him at all times, including with connecting rooms. Under the circumstances had I been Hall I also would have wanted a witness, someone to confirm my word. Especially because of what I did not then know, Garrison bugged him. So I have no difficulty at all believing he on his own insisted on Kevin being with him. And great difficulty in understanding why your spooks would not permit this.

I know Hall. He would have talked to your people. He'd be crazy to now.

And in case those paranoids around you invent new rumors and then believe them - if not repeat them - the wuss tion of whether or not he would appear in September never came up. I did not offer advice either way and he did not given any suggestion, no matter how remote, that he would not appear. I rather look forward to it in part to see if I have guessed their choreography.

Purdy ~~he~~ came up to me as I was leaving to say he wanted to speak to me later. I said okay. He said he wants to talk to me about the medical evidence. I told him that for the committee I will not do this now. Under the circumstances I think it would be a waste of his time and mine. When I return from a trip that begins day after tomorrow I'll have more time pressure. I'd appreciate it if you tell him when you see him. Thanks.

Besides, there is a time and a place for everything. I offered all that and much more on a number of occasions before and after the committee. Donovan is aware of my conversation with Sprague on this and that he apparently was told not to come here as he asked and I agreed. I now feel that if this part of my work was of no interest to those who call themselves pros and all others amateurs at a time when I believe it was basic and essential as a statement of the course and purpose of the committee it is of no interest to me now that it has need to appear as what I think it is not and will and cannot be.

Mrs. Burke, meanwhile, has seen fit to refer to me as a son of a bitch. This causes me no anguish. The rest of what she said reflects an unwillingness to learn or to change. It also was untruthful. My reaction was not designed to flatter her. Nor does she lead me to believe I might want to rethink the position to which I adhere, the one I made explicit on many occasions.

I don't want to see Purdy. But I do not want him to take it personally. It is not personal and is not intended to be insulting. There are a couple of you I knew earlier and who I regard as good people. No matter how good others may believe any others on the committee to be I just want nothing to do with any of them.

I'm leaving on a trip shortly. It has nothing to do with the committee or its work.

Best wishes,