

8/23/69

Dear Matt,

The hurricane has kept you people much in my mind. I did not anticipate any harm befell you if you were at home, but I couldn't help wondering if you were using school vacation to enjoy your boat and whether anything happened to it, whether or not you were on it.

There has been a great, frustrating and depressing silence from New Orleans. Aside from an enormous amount of material I gave them by making copies, there were things I loaned them of which I did not or could not make copies. They do not respond to letters and do not return it. I presume this is not because, without exception, they have bad manners but that it is a policy announced and obeyed, an order. Jim finally sent me the small sum for my actual expenses on the last trip down, which they had asked me to make, but there is silence on the balance that in my even more desperate financial condition looms large. The story is they do not have the money, and it is false. Jim is offering to pay the expenses of others just to go down and visit with him, a sort of public-relations move on his part.

One of the results of all of this is that I cannot trust them in any way. This means I will not trust them with knowledge I would like them to have, that they might be able to use and do something with, where I would like to be able to carry things further than I have from this great distance. Were they to perform as they have in the past there is the possibility people might get killed. They have never sent me copies of any of the transcripts of the trial. Some are not crap, are worthwhile, important. Much of the good stuff is a direct consequence of my work, what I gave them and others to use for them. After the enormous labor I gave them, one would think ordinary mortals would reciprocate to at least this extent, aside from the possibility it might serve the common good. I asked for these immediately and was told they didn't have them but if they ever got them, they'd send me copies. They have them, they are making copies and sending them to others, and they do not respond when I write and ask. One of my friends went to the trouble and expense of copying one witness' testimony. Eventually, I will get the rest of the relatively little of value. Meanwhile, I cannot use it - and the only immediate use I have for any of it is to help Jim! Ironic. There is so much work I have to do without it that immediately it does not effect my work. But I may be going on lectures, with a large bureau offering me. They are offering me. The question is, with what Jim did to all of us, if anyone will want lectures on this subject. He has killed public interest more than you can imagine. He has also turned off a number of the better workers, people who had been working hard and well. So, if I am booked, I'll not even have the N.O. testimony to cite in Jim's defense.

Despite the other work, which has been fairly extensive, I've completed the addition to COUP D'ETAT on King/Rey alone. It is more than book length, about 125-150,000 words. I've read about 20% and corrected it and my wife is retyping it. When I finish this I have much other material to write and I will do that. It is real hot. I have material others do not have, meaning unpublished anywhere and I have gathered together an enormous number of threads and woven them together. The entire book is about a quarter of a million words, more with the large appendix to the first part. But the King stuff can be readily separated for what could be a sensational book. I wrote the addition with this in mind. If you are ever going to send me the balance of your notes, it will have to be soon if I am to be able to use them, for the work of retyping is too great with all that remains undone. Unfortunately, as I once told you, I have to convert the read first draft into final offset copy. When I know you will be home, I'll return the part of your notes I have. I do not want to mail them without knowing you are there.

A while back I wrote John Pilger asking him to try and get something for me in London. He replied he couldn't and that he'd soon be here again and I'd hear from him. Inhaven't yet.

The toll of the years finally forced me to slow down some, often just resting. This has given me more thinking time. One of the things I may have finally doped out is where D could have gotten so much good information. On this, Moo told me a long time ago they had confirmed something I got from her and they didn't believe. He promised to send it to me, although apprehensive of it. He hasn't. Imagine how sick they are: this is information about the other side. Is it possible the other side doesn't know it? What difference does it make if they knew we know it? They have every reason to presume I do anyway. It is this sickness that is superimposed on everything and everyone.

We have had not too bad a summer. I've spent much time in the sun, sun in our pool several times a day and for a man pushing 60 suppose I'm in fair shape. The chiggers forced me to cut down on the outside work I was doing. The repellent didn't. So, with the approach of cooler weather, I've more than enough work backed up to give me an active winter outside. We have a beautiful place and I enjoy working on it. Out fish come up to the edge of the pond now when they hear voices so expected to be fed (and they are). Fun.

Gary was going to go to Dallas this summer but couldn't when his car pooped out. One of the things he wanted to do is take pictures. You promised me a set of contacts of those you took but never gave me them. Is it now impossible? I do not care about the old lady and things like that, just the locale.

Well, the sun is coming up and I've got to get back to work. I do hope you sustained no hurt or loss from the storm. It left you, zeroed in on me, got to less than 100 miles away and abruptly turned east. We got only heavy rain from it. Not far away the floods were very bad.

Best to the kids, J and everyone else.

Sincerely,