

Friday 15th

Dear persons all and all species,

How good it was to get Jeanine's card, with the remarkable coincidences of which you do not know. You've been on my mind for the past several days for I've been intending to write to ease one of Matt's apprehensions, as I recall them, over the tapes. James says he had already told the authorities, so there is nothing to worry about there. I hadn't noted this until last week.

Today I picked up the mail at the p.o. on town on the way to Washington for further examination of the knee + bugged in the demolition of your harpsichord, so you see that incident and N.O. and its people were on my mind when I got your card. (Diagnosis uncertain pending X-ray reading, tentative an arthritis condition not now serious.)

Great, Matt working so regularly. Hope it is also congenial.

I've been spending much time outside, getting the place in shape and myself also. The upper half of the body has responded well, but my legs complain and, I think, are boasting of their age.

Meanwhile, I have been nibbling away at work. I finished the book on the new medical evidence. (started when I was with you in Jan), copyrighted a limited edition (Sylvia Meagher paid it the supreme complement of saying she wouldn't have detected a third of what I had, and the fact is she didn't, for I'd sent her the raw material), as I did with two other books. Jan't get printed. Had it not been for going to DC today I'd have completed the rereading of COUP D'ETAT preparatory to writing a book-length addition (King-Ray, new material). I hope to get that organized in a day or two and under way.

Last thing I did before getting to N.O. in early December was interview the leader and his assistant on this new Haiti caper, on tape. So, I spent part of the day at the Justice Dept., by invitation, for this they can use, having indicted a number of our old Cuban mercenaries. Switch.

And a few other things not in the field in which you know me, for a different and I think useful day.

So, it is good to hear from you! Gary and I are in regular touch. He's just been handed another enormous medical bill. No word from the office. Seeing nothing in the papers is comforting. Heard from Sylvia that she'd heard Jim is working on a book. I never hear from them because of a number of things, one of the more embarrassing being their not keeping their agreement to repay my expenses on the work they asked me to do for them Dec-Jan. When they chisel on me they've scraped through the bottom of the barrel. But, as long as they stay out of the papers, I guess that is good. Great tragedy there, more than you know, even if you were at the trial.

Every once in a while I see or hear something that reminds me of D, but I next expect to hear from her from jail. Another tragedy. Do not hear from Penn (still another tragedy, for Gary, who is a specialist and was in touch with him after he disowned everybody else, Vince and me as agents), says he is off his rocker. I leave him alone. In fact, one of its better results of the N.O. fiasco was to shake the loose fruit off the tree.

I remble as I rush, wanting to get all today's mail done and you are the first I answer - it is that good to hear from you - so I can start fresh in the morning.

But, without the enormous time I was spending on the H.C. end, I have been able to get a number of other things done, all overdue, and I'll have better access to my own materials when I commence writing again, and that is good.

Id forgotten what I intended as nice things about Matt in COUP (I took it there twice but he never read it) until rereading. Feels pretty good to pick up a book a year old, on current things, some of which had not even happened, and to find the only urgent changes are in tenses.

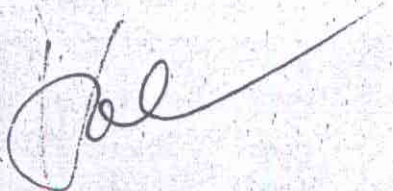
If and when Matt has time to write, I'd like to have the scuttlebutt, too, because the time may again come when I'll have to cope with it. and if you know any wealthy radical-right down there known as Tony, let me know.

When you write, Phil, if you do, my best to him.

I located John Pilger in England, wrote asking him to ask for some papers for me at the Embassy. He never answered. I think he missed a good story by not doing it. When he did not respond I got someone else to do it.

Hope Carol is on the upcycle, as she was not when I was last there. If she is not going to be able to pose me further, I'd like that sketch. The only things on the walls of my office are your Xmas card(wild), an autographed color shot of Nkrumah (he sent it to me), an original sketch of Paul Robeson, and copyrights. I'd like to add that.

Really glad to hear from you. While I want to hear from Matt, I also hope he stays real busy so you can accumulate some \$\$\$\$. Hugs to everyone.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Phil', written in a cursive style.