

11/29/70

Dear Ron,

You've been on my mind for the past several days, because of a strange development in my personal affairs, an apparent attack of bursitis. It comes close to preventing the use of my right arm for periods of time, which slows me down some, so I am catching up on reading. I had hardly started "Soledad Brother" before you came into my mind. This is why, and that book brought the thought.

I still get the New Orleans papers. I've been aware of an aspect of national policy and intent you may recall from COUP and its forecast of the raids and murders and of Hoover's initiative in them. So, I've kept up with what has been going on in the black community there and, from my earlier work, have some rather interesting tidbits that are relevant and, I think, unknown to the people there.

I assume you have a general understanding of what has happened there and gotten very little attention. It came to center around the Desire housing project and Black Panther squatting there, after a shootout (police initiative, police murder over vengeance-seeking for exposure of police spies) on Piety Street. What followed is, I believe, the closest thing yet to total black community support for militant black activity. It is vocal, it crosses all political and economic lines and it is being heard in the white community, even carried in the truly reactionary papers. Like suddenly Unkte Tom becomes Rosa Parks.

And there has been retaliation. Not against the blacks, but against the whites! The white lawyers who have tried to help, meaning no more than meet their professional obligations, as "honky" society sees them, have been punished, beginning with citations for contempt on the local level to the firing of the top OEO lawyers on the national level. The reason is unknown locally, having been suppressed there. But it was on the demand of the Republican candidate for Mayor, who has become a minor power in Republicanism there. And even for that area, that party, he is reactionary, with the best fascist connections. The most fascist and racist of the Cuban revanchists are part of it (honored by the Nixon-Agnew people for their help in the campaign). These people tie in with Margis, Walker, others of the lunatic right and even with the well-publicized "red" diversions in the JFK and RFK assassinations. This part I have in documentary proof. You may recall some from COUP. And rewarding of the "right" whites, one of the group having just been given a nice federal job.

You may recall that when the cops went en mass to evict the Panthers, complete with tank ("war wagon"), several hundred community blacks interposed themselves-and the cops retreated.

Anyway, I think there could be a good book, DESIRE, which has all the double entendres. I do not want to do it, but I would give anyone who would write it everything I have. Depending on his concept, this could be much, for I have an extensive file on Chicago, the FBI and blacks, plus a rather complete file from New Orleans. The fact that this is in New Orleans, with its culture and attitudes, especially toward black women, tends to make it different than in other cities. (And in my library I have what an uninformed writer would want on the woman part.) Even Garrison's part add to this story, for he is a unique DA, with the only record of fighting Washington on other issues, esp. the FBI, and asking their ~~help~~ help - Hoover's - in capturing Willie Dawkins and another charged with, of all things for a Garrison, the verbal crime of "criminal anarchy", that crime consisting of seeking to organize the black community. Which, incidently, gave Garrison the biggest percentage of votes of any ethnic group.

Best regards,