

7/1/71

Dear Lou,

I'm too weary and I've too much to do to be writing every day. I won't be. I have several purposes today.

It turns out that I am not alone in having doubts about the official story. I have been spending a little time and I've learned a few things. One, whether "in believes it or not, is that he may find that one of his worst enemies may turn out to be a good friend. For the moment, it will have to be this indirect. I think it might be a very good thing if I knew what to pass on to someone who could make excellent and effective use of anything solid. Were I, for example, to have any doubt about anything, I'd express it and say why.

And, of course, I'd like to know whatever there is to know for my own reasons.

There are several good signs I report. I didn't get a single nasty phone call from any member of the press. In fact, I didn't get one from anyone in the press. The TV net coverage (I saw NBC and CBS) was extremely fair, and those local stations repeated the same footage on their local news, which I also stayed up and looked at. In each case, there was rather full treatment of Jim's comment on the feds being out to get him. And why. In neither case was there any kind of crack. This is unusual.

The Washington Post did not use the wire copy. They had their own reporter write his own story. The enormous amount of space required for The Pentagon Papers story forced cutting some of it. What was cut out is their questioning of IRS about Pershing. They claim they have not paid him and not to have any kind of serious case against him, but can you understand the significance of such questioning, such a suspicion. The feds have Pershing stashed away in some kind of fancy hideout, and they have done this with other informants for years and at great cost. The Post reporter who did this story has been making a study of FBI informants, and he knows and has written about such cases. He cannot imagine Pershing doing this, with what it means about how he will live what years remain to him, without somebody having a real heavy hat to put on him.

I expect to have to go into town later, so I'm writing this brief note in case I can't get through to you or Moo by phone, which I'll try after the customary lunch hours down there. I would like to hear from somebody, and not from the NOAG phones. I can get to another pretty fast. Say 10 minutes. Unfortunately, Moo was going to give me a new address and phone, but he didn't. Maybe it is not so unfortunate, but it leaves me little opportunity for easy communication.

The papers I've seen name Soule and Frey and the amusement company people, no others. Although the papers say up to ~~EE~~ \$1,500 a month, privately the feds say up to \$6,000. If you people are not too tied up emotionally, you may see that they have said too much. Which is good. They have said enough too much for an honest and really able reporter to have questions. They'll get no answers, if they ask them, and I think that after the business of the suppressed Viet Nam papers cools, they will.

Sincerely,