

Dear Jim, Abzug hearings

11/15/75

I've read your excellent draft of a statement you were denied the making of after you were asked to prepare it and Donovan Gay's memo on the Memo of Transfer, etc. It convinces me of the spot analysis I made when you first told me of this and partly based on which I decided to pre-empt all the chicken-livered, self-seeking committees with the challenge to all I called perjurers to a confrontation before any and all.

I do not believe it was an accident by which you were cut off. I believe it is because you stuck to the record and the record is all one way and that Bella, for all her ability and balls like no brass monkey ever had is not about to credit anyone else or do or say anything that might not be liked by those who have laid court to her.

In the absence of ~~perjury~~ persuasive contrary proof I encourage you to accept this, not the weak apologies, as a working theory. It is, of course, no trick for a staffer to remind a chairperson that there is another witness scheduled.

I have several long talks with Donovan Gay, with and without Tim Ingraham present. His memo comes ~~400~~ from these. The one reference to what was not known to me and described in detail to them, including even a procedure for advancing all of this, is covered in the enclosed letter (FOIA) to Rhoads.

There can be a difference between overt disreputable behavior and political ambition, which sometimes drives decent people to indecency. However, my instinctive reaction when they did what they did to you(us) was to suggest colling it. I feel this more strongly. If we do not hold ourselves away except when asked for help we'll be everyone's unwelcome mat. I do encourage you to ask for the immediate return of all papers with some firmness. You have an appeal to prepare and if being firm is at all touchy with you blame it on your client, saying he feels you require these. Insist on your own copies. When I finally got back the last I loaned them it was not what I gave them and not even legible copies. Corrections next to the last. The last I don't have.

Maybe they added a little. But these statements are all our work, all uncredited, and all about to be what others will be paid to speak about.

If none of these people can behave like decent folks I'd rather run the chances, slight as they may be, of pre-empting them, forcing them into public recognition instead of this disgusting needless ripping off.

We don't know that the ~~chances~~ chances are. But the first thing NBC asked me today is when I was to appear as a witness before Schweiker's committee. This was news to me but I was told there is a wire-story indicating he is hinting at it.

I guess we'd best learn that descriptions like The Best and the Brightest fall short.

If not long after I return from Nashville, probably after my 11/24~~23~~ 24 speech at Maryland, I do not have a xerox of the testimony I will write one of my more diplomatic letters that will begin with the request for the return of what I've loaned, the copies I loaned, and a question about what requires the withholding from me of the public record that had been promised and was so largely based on my work.

As that gang of undersized amazons I found around Bella years ago are not what I would have expected, so also is this straightout unethical selfish behavior much less than I would have expected. I think we should learn from it.

By the way, I did phone Tim several days ago, prior to the press conference. He did not return the call and I'll not place it again.

best,