

JDW:

12/27/75

Your post office has a way of never providing a legible postmark date. So I refer to the mailing that included your 12/22 comment on the Policoff piece and the two KGO shows, one with Lane the other with Anson.

If you'd had time to read the enclosures you'd be less optimistic.

Except from JL, the few I talk seem and those in public life seem to think that the executive agencies are going to sit back and let themselves be clobber and that the papers are going to be honest. It isn't so. And the Lanes and Ansons and all they represent are for all practical purposes government's helpers.

I don't know how much, if any, influence I've had on a clearly evil series the Times gives every indication of having on the King assassination. As usual Bud did something stupid if not worse, shows only signs of worrying about it, and keeps it to himself. I went there at his request Tuesday when I was in D.C. The one thing I can say for the visit is that JL and I had a few minutes to work on other matters.

There have been other clear readings. First Post Mortem was assigned to Waldron, then to Crewdson who finally telegraphed that he hadn't read it. Amounts to suppression. Then the same switch on what would have been a good King series, with Mo and with him the only staffer with specific, detailed knowledge. It was all cleared then he was eased out and off. However, I kept after Crewdson heavily and I think generated some concern about the coming whitewashing. So, they evolved a simple and direct method of getting around their consciences and solid fact: three of them went to see Bud, who had no suspicion and kept the date secret from Jim so he could not be there. Crewdson, Franklin and Horrock. Knowing that Bud knows least of the case and is a blabbermouth can you think of any reason consistent with decent or honest journalism that would have the Times national office send three to see him, after 6 p.m., when it could not find one to attend the press conference at which I offered copies of new evidence from FBI files on the story on which the Times was working? Bud couldn't, so he went through with it and God knows what we'll be reading that he said.

All the vibes are bad. This morning in a large mailing of copies is a carbon of my letter to Schweiker's honcho, mostly on JFK.

Jim and I remain without any real help and now he carries a much heavier load.

I've taken time to talk and write you on the chance the national desk up there will keep its word and let him go over the pieces before they appear. Sent him another minor assist this morning.

This gets me back to the Policoff piece. The only reason I can think of for the Times using any editorial piece by him is hal-making. He has been critical of the Times. There is nothing new or of any real consequence in the article. It appeared at the time the nasty series was to have. Whether my fighting Crewdson or other considerations delayed it, this pretense at both-sides writing immediately preceeded the scheduled time.

Except for Jim and me (Howard being fully occupied in law school through the term) everyone, including all in Congress, have in one way or another been part of the government's disinformation operation. The Lanes, McDonalds and Ansons in particular because they are presented as critics. By the time Howard can take the stump the life of the Church Committee and its subcommittee will have expired. I do what little I can. But even the Easons are of no help. To the degree I can I am trying to rebuild. At best it is slow. When I can't sleep I at least stay abed, sometimes for hours, awake or partly so. I take the prescribed sleeping pills only when I'm not tired. They are supposed to work 8 hours. Rarely do they make six.

However, Jim and I continue to take initiatives for what, ultimately, they may mean or do. I've got a few other people in the major media turned on. Whether or not it will mean anything we'll have to wait and see.

I go into this because you have not been able to read what I've sent you. Knowing the reality you may be alert to other indications and if you have time may offer some helpful suggestions and wisdom.

The grim realities are that even on the Ray case Jim and I are alone. Even Ray is his own enemy. If you know anyone at Pacific News I'd like to get the full text of a recent piece by Wayne Chastain, who phoned me after or at about the time he was writing it and made no mention of it. It is monstrous. When we first learned of it Bud told Jim he would call me yesterday. I therefore planned yesterday around keeping myself free for what I might be able to do. Bud not only didn't call but didn't return mine when I phoned after lunch and he had just gone to lunch. It was not to waste a day for me but this kind of thing really frags me down when I can least resist the weight. I spent some of the time completing a new typewriter table. I may even try and use it today. It is designed to make it possible for me to avoid having to straddle. But I stood a little too long and that is not good. I remembered a 3" pipe I'd found here years ago, with flanges on both ends. By not using regular casters but ball-bearing rollers it came to just about the right height. I bought a set of four and found one defective. So I had to go to that store last night to get a replacement (out of stock) and at the same time do some shopping. I could barely make it home. I think that instead of drilling and setting the flanges with pins today when I have to go to the cellar I'll bring it up and try it. But not until I feel that I can do this and also stand long enough to affix a low mlodging tyat will keep the machine in place. When I can use this, if it works, I'll be able to keep both legs up while typing in what I hope will be a less uncomfortable position.

Under Lil's prodding and that of others I had expected to ask the doctor Tuesday if the consultation of a specialist is indicated. But when that morning, after the trip to DC, I was able to walk 10 blocks (with two rests) and he then was so pleased in his expressions of my progress I didn't, feeling he would take offense. I have enough fighting there without adding this. But before I was home there was a call to increase the dosage of anti-coagulant to what it had been and to go back to the blood-testing schedule he had just cut in half. I'll hear from him or his nurse after the next test, day after tomorrow. If I'm not able to do more by then I think I'll ask. This morning a 10-minute walk was all I was up to. Of course this was on the hill, with going down not easier than going up. If in part this can come from the flaccidity of muscles used so little for 10 weeks it is not encouraging.

Your timing with the ~~92~~ KGO tapes could not be better. Beginning 1/2 I'll be driving Lil to and from her office. Unless we have something to talk about I can listen to tapes both ways on the cheap machine I got that takes inexpensive batteries. (I think the Lane/Morgan tape is defective but I'm waiting until I can sit comfortably near the Craig that has been so extremely valuable and try it again. On the machine in the car the first side seemed to stop before the end and there seemed to be nothing on the other side. At some point it may be necessary to address Lane. What is on the tape, or if there was merely a problem with this cheap machine, what I heard, is of value to this end.

What ~~may~~ immediately be of more value is anything and everything Anson says. You read his pretense of conservatism correctly. I think I've addressed him in what you've not had time to read.

Just looked at your note on the Policoff 12/6. You suggest it could be the Times' opening gun. I think this was the intent. Thanks and best,