

Pls return to HW

Dear Jim, Cliff Durr memorial HW 6/12/75

It may not interest you, but I have a notion that what doesn't may interest your history professor guest of tomorrow. So, of course, must be confidential. It may also give him a few notions for the projected oral histories.

Told you about Tom Emerson. I think I met him but once, when he was with the NLRB. We got together this way because I didn't remember his face (and he seems much shorter than I recall.) His wife is a fan of mine. Yup. Never met, but she recognized the picture from WWIV and was talking to Lil when I rejoined Lil. She is quite a gal. Blunt, too. Said Tom had sort of worn conservative. Our brief conversation convinced me it is a ~~wife~~ wise wife who knows her own hubby. He is not attached to Marshall and ~~xxx~~ she is impressed with what Steven Duke has done. (She may yet talk to him about the missed potential of PF.)

Abe Fortas remembered me. We spoke briefly. I'm to call him some time when I'm in DC to see if he is free. It will be about what I went to Ocala for.

Jessica Mitford did not remember me by name but she must have been talking to those who know me because Virginia Durr asked me please to speak to Jessica, who wants advice on how to get some of what the FBI has on her. (Her husband is a lawyer, Bob Traahaft! She is writing Levi in the a.m., under both FOIA and Privacy,) When we got talking she remembered the lunch at the Palace in SE in 1967. Bob not with her.

Carl Bernstein's ma came up. I then remembered her. From before there was a Carl and when he ate my eggs and birds as a pumpy boy hooked on a bike. Al, her husband, also not there. He was Max Lowenthal's research assistant on the Hoover book.

(The second) Mrs. Hugo Black came up to Lil when I was not with Lil and said she knew Lil from somewhere. True. From when Lil had something pretty steady going with Hugo's nephew Hollis. I broke it up.

Virginia is Hugo's sister. Lil knew Cliff better than I, I Virginia better. Lil knew Cliff from RFC. So. Virginia instead of writing had a mutual friend phone us to ask that we be there. She was glad and we were glad to see her and some of the others.

When someone asked Virginia to forsake God forsaken Alabama she said she was an anti-Wallace elector candidate. She then put an arm around me and said "Harold radicalized me." Not quite that way, but it had that effect, in the late 30s. It was when we were all together that I recalled more. Dave Carliner was there. I met him while he was working with a liberal New Deal Calif. Congressman I knew, one of the early anti-polltax fighters. Lee Geyer. That is when Virginian wanted me to run the first real anti-polltax committee and I demurred for other work.

Joe Forer and Dave ~~Rein~~ Rein, of whom you may know as lawyers willing to take cause cases (latecomers of my period-after my time in those events - could remember only those eggs. They were associated with Marcantonio in the early Smith Act cases.

Izzy Stone was so glad to see me again and it was so good! But he is still hungup on the subject and I made no effort to converse.

Cliff was Rosa Parks' lawyer. Spoke to her briefly as she left.

Loyalty  
Oath  
Lee  
Several told the story of HST wanting to reappoint Cliff to the FCC. Truman had been told that Virginia was running as a Henry Wallace elector. HST said, "I know but I want him anyway." But Cliff would not accept renomination even with confirmation guaranteed. He done some of the nastier ones in when he caught them in crookedness, like one who'll probably mean nothing to either of you, a pre-McCarthy type ~~Eugene~~ Eugene Cox, of Ga. Congress.

I thought the last time we'd seen Cliff was at an anti-fascist rally. Lil remembers a party where we stayed all night that I don't. Long time ago. Heard occasionally after he went back to Ala. to handle the cases nobody else would.

Fortas spoke of his remarkable record on the defense part of RFC, where he was

general counsel And kept all the money from being stolen and milked off by the largest corporations. Fortas then Undersec. Interior, Under Ickes.

Fair scattering of lawyers of that era who as young men did good and since then have done good by themselves.

When the services, really a memorial with speeches, was over and I walked into the reception room, Virginia had me come over and sit while others were signing the guest book. Lil did for us. While we were talking and both feeling good because so many remembered a man of principle and a brave man. I told Virginia some of our generation (she has a few years on me) were still fighting. She remembered: "That has to include you." I laughed. She did and said others had told her.

(Emerson had no interest in the discovery precedent under habeas corpus. Most people do get this way with years and weariness and the feeling they have done their share.)

Izzy's sight must be failing. He had a terrible time reading his speech. Faltered, wiped his brow, etc. I wonder if he was having other trouble. He has always worn exceptionally thick lenses. Lil is probably right in thinking it is his eyes. All the speeches were read except part of Fortas' and a former FCC associate of Cliff's I do not know. If I knew I forgot that once when all the FCC except Cliff ruled against a man denied radio time because he was an avowed atheist and wanted to talk about that. Cliff asked them to hold off so he could prepare a paper. He did and they shifted, unanimously holding up that right. I think probably much to do with later Fairness Doctrine. ...We forget that with so many things in the past there was a determined, effective and since forgotten person.

I should have been to bed long ago. Several long days and short nights ahead. But I thought you might be interested in knowing that there were those few of us back then. We did try. We did pay. We did do some good.

HW