

Dear Jim,

1/18/75

My conscious and deliberate decision to get more sleep came at a time when suddenly there was so much more to do - the new book and then the CIA flaps - I'm even farther behind in everything. There is a real stack accumulated on top of the incomplete draft of the Conclusions of The Unimpeachment. Even the kind of letter I'd never have ignored in the past, one from the Post Office admitting, in effect, that some of the books are being tampered with. And several from you. One from Jimmy Ray from last year, the end of December.

An added cause ~~is~~ is the delay in the judge's decision in the Ray case, which ~~gave~~ gave Lesar time to initiate that of which you know with the specks and carry to close to the end of "negotiations" my ~~unpractise~~ unpractise claim against Edward Bennett Williams, who did let the statute of limitations run on most of my claims for helicopter damages.

The latest on that is Lesar's meeting with his staff lawyer or partner who has been handling this. He offered a \$5,000 settlement which we'll not think of accepting. This can well mean court and much, much more work. I don't know if I sent you a copy of the analysis I sent Lesar after I was at one such meeting on 1/6, but it was unfortunately exactly right.

If they are insured, there is no apparent rational explanation of their conduct and attitude, for any suit can hurt them much. ~~x.x.x.x~~ And I think should.

As I look back on it now, this negligence began about the time I discovered they had a Warren connection and let them know of Whitewash.

Lesar had the last meeting with them on the afternoon of the 16th. As soon ~~as~~ as he told me by phone that there are indications they have had access to what we have discussed, inferentially or certainly by phone, I told him it could wait until we are together. My reason was not that Williams has a tap but that the feds are feeding him.

The ease with which we got the appointment with Warner, even ~~in~~ on the day I asked for, is another clue. So is there ~~is~~ what your papers probably have not covered fully, the scandal of the the domestic spying by the "altimore police. It was not restricted to the city and it was reciprocal with the federals.

There remains ~~the~~ effort to do some collecting. Lesar will undertake this when there is time. Quite a few cases. Surprising how totally corrupt book publishing and distribution became when I started with books!

I haven't even had the time to make the kinds of notes I'd usually make. Partly immediately, as with Minimum John's preparations for the minimum sentencing of the maximum Watergaters to come to trial, a clear signal, it would seem. And a need for the act of being easy. Or on some of what Dean and Baker have said, to be footnotes.

Of course two accidents took and take much time. It is little comfort not to have been guilty in either. Except for the reduced cost. I'll be losing more time when the body parts come in and I'm without the car again.

Clipping, with L&L working, also takes time, more now because I'm mounting those on the CIA and domestic intelligence. (Can you imagine what it would have been if I'd been able to take steps to sue earlier? I've been wanting to for years. Almost got the ACLU to do this about two years ago. When they decided against it, typically I became their villain. Ditto with Bud, who now realizes, as does his partner, how right I'd been. The files on Bud deal with when he was with Long and Baker saw them because of the file when he became McCord's lawyer - another case he has not done well with.) While I do not take the care you and Lesar do and do not cut the larger clippings apart so they'll take up no more than a sheet of paper, it does take time I had not been spending and it does leave them more uniform and easier to handle. This leads to a question: have you tried the new tape dispenser, the hand-operated one I've seen advertised on TV? If you have, I'd be interested in knowing if it saves time and it, as its size would seem to indicate, it requires a special size roll of tape. Because I do this while taking in the TV news, I do not do it at my deskoon which there is no space in any event, so the hand-held job could be a convenience.

The immediate cause of this letter is to let you know that I have received several issues of the NYTimes so you wont take the time to copy long clips. An enclosed slips indicates those I have. But I've not been able to read any of those stories or the verbatim texts yet. I hope to get tot the Colby statement this weekend. There is a report for snow and I do want to get more wood in and up. 't has been quite cold here and I've not been

able to lay in as decent a supply as I began last winter with. Means can't use as little fuel oil although I am using remarkably little. Most of what I've burned I call my Sol-shevitayn wood. Down wood I have gathered, carried up to the house and broken into short lengths. Often it is waterlogged and rotten, but I want to get rid of it and it can dry out while heated by other wood. When Lil is not home I use that exclusively.

Nobody seemed interested in any help on the CIA story. Nor on Belin. There does seem to be some force working in the background. More than what we've assumed, more than the media disinclination to cover the embarrassing to officialdom. The whitewashing, the covering up, even the framing, have been quite visible.

There hasn't been a single inquiry keyed to the new book and its disclosures from a single reporter since the new CIA story broke, it happens exactly a month after publication. At the same time, in about two months there has not yet been a single nasty public comment of any kind of which I've even heard. A first.

You'll remember my asking you about "Leigh" as a Hunt pen-name and your belief that the writing was better than his. Would this change in knowing that he had a grandfather of that name? If so, would that mean anything to you? I've decided to splurge and get his "Under Cover." I've not gotten far into it but as a disclosure of the man's mind and concepts (particularly of self) in the few pages I've read it is entirely consistent with our earlier analysis. (Splurged on Marchetti, too.)

Another of the time-consumers was the accidental discovery of what had happened to our farm, what is officially planned for it, and what this has meant to our ability to sell it so that we might live a bit better. The county rezoned this cloverleaf land (along a major interstate expressway) into residential) and the State decided to take it, if necessary by condemnation, for an extension on a park. Neither consulted it or even let us know. Nor did the real estate people. I found out in making an effort on my own. Meanwhile, the state of the economy limits what the State can do, about both price and acquisition. They do not plan to think of buying for two more years. I've taken the initiative with them, asking and explaining our situation and making suggestions welcomed and found constructive on the operating rather than the policy level. What it can mean to us and our future I can only guess, but it can't be good because this is land well-situated for commercial use with the right purchaser. Or light industrial. We don't seem ever to get any good breaks.

In all of this there is the continuing comfort that my work stacks. With all that has happened in Watergate, for example, I have no rewriting to do from new developments on new facts. If it doesn't mean anything practical, it is a satisfaction.

In this connection, I think we'll want to keep our eyes on Baker. I think he sees his future in this and the opportunities it presents for him to make himself a national contender in the next sweepstakes, one with an appearance other than that of Nixon and Ford, who is either rushing or tobogganing to disaster for all of us. Here also I think I see an accelerated authoritarianism.

Sorry I've not been responsive. Hope you are having an easy winter.

best,