

8/25/76

Mr. Richard T. Gallen
7 W 81 St., 4C
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Dear Dick,

One item in today's mail required of me what when I was working on it reminded me of you.

Last night I completed the last of a series of affidavit drafts in response to a load dumped on me by DJ. Before reading and correcting them this hasty letter.

I presume that before now you have made your decision and change. I hope your decision is what is best for all of you. And makes you happiest. This requires more than money. Sometimes I've been quite content in poverty. It comes down to what has meaning for individuals, a variable. What is right and what is wrong is also an individual determination and another variable.

While I did not have this as it relates to me in mind, suddenly it seems appropriate. In fact without making a conscious decision I did make one. However, circumstances controlled it. It is that without support, help of any kind of even a firm deal my first obligation is ^{to} the cases I have in court. They have made further writing impossible. But I'm reasonably confident, only for the present.

This is not in any sense because I am less confident of the commercial as well as the social values of The King Conspiracies. Rather is it because when I've completed it I still do not know where I am or what I can do with it. Under other circumstances it would have been completed long ago and would be making money today. But I can't control those other circumstances and others are unwilling to benefit ^{from} my experiences, which are not their experiences and not the ordinary ones.

In fact, under what is normal commercial publishing circumstances this would be true and there would not be any significant reduction in the other work I've done. I am but one person and I do have to do what others can do for me, like package books. But if I do not package books I cannot survive. Without any promotion they keep me going. I have no choice. This is why I entered into an essentially profitless deal with Whirlwind, to reduce that burden and still get the word around. (I've heard not a word from Herman.)

Intermittently during your period of silence I've thought of you. Once it was when I was trying the impossible, to catch up on filing. It has accumulated since before the thrombophlebitis. There was a short letter from you saying the Watergate market was already flooded. It has not yet happened. And the most important truths and facts are not yet out. Two years ago I had completed the draft of what can determine the coming election, properly used. You had told me this earlier, when you heard that Bantam had made a deal with Clark Mollenhoff for a Watergate book. You said it would cream the market. I said it would not happen.

My point here is that I know you to be a very good and a very sharp person and that this is not consistent with what I know of you. Not only do I know your judgement to be infinitely superior to this, and your instincts (witness Barney and McDonald, which would have gotten him indicted), but without it you would not be the professional success you are.

There are too many examples of this. I've been thinking about them in odd moments.

Especially because you have also told me you've never known me to be wrong in fact or forecast.

Do we need a better example than Oswald in New Orleans? Ten years ahead of time, today's regular of angled headlines?

There is a current illustration and it means problems for me.

ABC, which may be innocent in it, has hired Abby Man to do a King movie for showing on next April 4. He is associated with a number of bad people, all professional plagiarists. They are busily engaged in ripping off all the work I've done for so many years without any kind of real support and no subsidy. Including a current book 2/3 drafted when I had to lay it aside.

But if that work had been contracted more than 2/3 of a year ago it would be out and there would be this greatly enhanced value to it. There would even be a second life for it next year. (And this now is where the Playboy thievery hurts.) Instead I have to spend an enormous amount of time fighting to make impossible what it makes possible for the Department of Justice. Meaning its non-appearance.

There are small things it is also out of character for you to have forgotten. Like asking De Grassi to send me copies of the papers filed in Barney's case against the CIA to save my unpaid lawyer that much work.

In no sense am I recriminating. If it were only over Dr. Segal I would not. (That is a current problem I cannot resolve until Monday, when the only local vascular expert returns from vacation. I have an appointment with him for then.) Without that one thoughtfulness I'd still have no idea of what my medical realities are.

I do not pretend to have thought this through. I haven't.

However, I have more or less developed a belief. It is that I represent a conflict to you, between what you might like to do and what you think in your own and your family's interest you should and should not do.

If this is correct, then you have no problem at all. Self- and family interest, as you perceive them, must be your primary consideration.

There is nothing wrong in this. It is absolutely right and you should be without any doubt. Doubts can tear you up. What happened to Rogovin, reported in the current Esquire, is an example of what can happen. This was in today's mail.

I speak from experience. I did not realize it but I began making my decision in 1967. I opted for what meant and means more for me. If I cannot say I look back without some regrets, I can and do say I made what for me as distinguished from others is the right decision and I am content.

Now I realize what I did - or didn't- do instinctively. Of the various properties and projects of which you asked me to send you brief summaries, I've taken time for one. If you can call perhaps 25 pages a summary. It may be a very bad one. I've not taken time to read it. I began it very early the morning of the 29th, typing it. Then I took the early bus to Washington and continued it on a stenoc's notebook. Then I resumed with a tape recorder walking from the bus station to the federal courthouse. My wife has typed it and I've sent it to a friend in Hollywood for his suggestions. He is no wheel. He is a production man. If I did not make a mess of it it has potential.

You are, of course, an experienced and a successful man. I am older, with more and different experiences. From them I tell you that what is right for me may be wrong for you and that as your surely have learned, there are no certainties. We all make mistakes. This is what makes it important that we do what at any time we believe to be right for us. Not for others. If we do this we may have regrets but no more. No worse. Perfection is not a state of man.

Best to you all,