

Journal

11/17/72

The purposes of this note are to make a record for the future of what it has meant to be the only one working full-time on the assassination and the circumstances under which we did and what they have meant.

Today was such a bad day, I felt I should leave a sample of what some of them have been. I am sending you a copy so that you may understand if I sometimes do not seem to think clearly and don't, if I seem to be forgetful or non-responsive. It is for not other purpose and I do not want you to take it any other way or to be in any way motivated to do anything. If I did not feel I could depend on this, I would not carbon you.

First there was the receipt of the Marboro catalogue with the advertising of FRAME-UP as their remainder - six weeks and one day after they were offered to me under the contract, an offer I accepted by return mail. The correspondence on this is in the O & D file.

Then the contractor finally came to repair the lane which had been damaged by the county in the course of several incompetent jobs along the road which prevented the flow of water from the lane and caused it to be hazardous most of the time and jeopardized ingress and egress in bad weather. We couldn't walk in or out all last winter without getting wet. Paying for this took all the money we have except for a sum that is smaller than a single one of the bills now due. Lil's reaction was fairly prompt. She got a violent headache, become unsteady on her feet, had to lie down, and is still unsteady when she walks - at almost bedtime.

We pay more than \$850 a year for medical and hospital insurance that does not cover all medical expenses, has caused some new ones for us, and in order to meet some of these additional costs were told to apply for public assistance, medical, which I did. It got bogged down in the bureaucracy which began an unended series of stupidities. Their first was to record as "income" that part of fire damage at our Hyattstown property for which the insurance company paid. We did use it for day-to-day necessities, like paying the bank what was due it, insurance, taxes, etc., but it is not income. Because others might be so victimized, I appealed. The State held a hearing at which the locals were dressed down for this among other things. They were instructed to recompute. They did, figuring the cash surrender value of my veterans insurance, the only insurance I carry, at twice what it is and ruled me ineligible because my "assets" exceed what is allowed. The actual cash surrender value of this insurance is but \$1,600. To make it binding, they figured the value of the Hyattstown property at 2 1/2 times it assessed value, ignored its condition because of the fire (the damage exceeded the assessed value of the building!). There was another hearing at my request and I asked for a number of official rulings, one being if an applicant of my age was required to cash in his wife's only protection for either or both of them to qualify for medical assistance. If an insurance policy is ruled to be an asset, no matter how it is phrased, this is what it means. They have also ingored the indebtedness on this property, the one in which we live, about \$20,000, incomputing my financial condition, and I have asked a formal ruling on that, too.

Our lawyer in the old suit against the government for damages has been pressuring me to accept an unacceptable settlement, although we have just refused it and told him explicitly warlier the lowest figure we would accept, net. He has done no work on the case and in order to persuade me to accept, which would give him a cut based on no work at all -no more sinister explanation need be sought, whether or not it would be true -has tried to convince me that our prospects are poor. I guess he can guarantee that. I have not told Lil about his letter or my answer, fearing what it would do to her. I have asked him to level and given him enough to show his letter is not honest. What he wants us to accept is less than out costs in just trying to litigate. My letter is not offensive but it is firm, direct and explicit without making accusations. The meaning is obvious enough, as are the limited alternatives. I'd have done better to proceed pro se. He has wasted another year for us, at least.

I will be having to sue the county for my costs in road repair. I have written them tonight, enclosing a copy of the receipted paid bill, using one of the last sheets of 3M paper I have. My order of a month's standing hasn't been filled and today I made three phone calls on it. The last resulted in a return call by the man in charge of sales for this territory. He would call me back in ten minutes. It has been five hours. This purchase is paid for! But for a month I've had to nurse the few remaining sheets, not copying what I should have. I suppose I'll have to be pro se and in a local court in the area of their political heft. Two of the members are Republicans. The third, the one democrat, finally told me a week ago that while the Republicans have been making these many promises to me, they have refused to do anything. I didn't know it, but he has moved that they keep their word on a number of occasions, but failed for lack of a second. If the Democrats were real pols they'd use this and the similar case and the obvious skimming on road jobs that has to mean graft to do something. One of the seemingly certain areas of graft is in the bituminous material. The roads are lined with stones not bound by it. In fact, they endanger walking and driving where they are that thick, inches thick. Anyone who ever drove a gravel road can imagine how much more hazardous this can be where the loose gravel is on top of a hard surface, not earth. If I have no choice but to seek recovery of our costs - and we have no real alternative - I can't be oblivious of what this may cause with the bank, where I'd expect at least one of the two Republican commissioners to have some connections if, in fact, he is not on the board. Likewise must I do something because things will soon become intolerable if I do not. We live on a mountain, depend on the roads, and will depend on their being scrapped when it snows. They were never ~~gravelled~~ ^{condored} or sanded until we moved here and I had to get out to do a TV show. It was then described as an "oversight" apparently tracing to the first time a schedule of de-icing was laid out. And none of the others living on this road, which includes some fairly prominent scientists in their fields, ever asked or complained! I guess because they got paid when they didn't go to work, too.

On an impersonal basis there is the letter from John Ray in which, without seeming to realize it, he reports a systematic campaign the one certain purpose of which is to set him up for trouble that would seem to be more likely the closer James gets to a hearing. The did not begin until after I was at Leavenworth to prepare for the making of an affidavit by him. They then decided to integrate him. He has been in the hole for 52 days for refusing to share a cell or work with blacks. Prior to this he had disarmed an attacking cellmate who had a knife. With his racist views and his brother's reputation, putting him with blacks is to solicit his being offed. His resentment seems to be over not compelling the integration of blacks who want to be segregated. He wants equality with the blacks! To the degree I can I'm making a record to offset the contrived official one of recalcitrance and punishable misconduct. He says that under state law in Kansas 35 days is cruel and unusual punishment (21 days in Illinois). So, he did 52 of his 60, his release seeming to coincide with my addressing his situation and what could happen in a letter to another prisoner. There may be no relationship, but the coincidence is there. I think it worked for the time being. All the mail, both ways, is censored.

If there are other things, and there are, this should be enough to record the situation.

I guess the first free minute I have next week I'll have to see if we can qualify for food stamps.

As John views such things, the man who was supposed to pay us only \$10 a week and keep the weeds down for the use of our Hyattstown property - less than it is worth as pasture - hasn't paid a cent in three or four years. He is accident prone, but all his medical expenses are paid, he is getting workman's compensation and public assistance to a total of \$166 a week. So, he burns the house partly down! We have no income and some reactionary bureaucrat has decided we should not be helped and does what is necessary to this end.