

Dear Jim,

10/13/76

Richard Sprague and I got off to a good start last night.

Or at least not a bad one.

It was a little after 10. Consistent with my reform determination to get at least 6 hours sleep I was brushing my teeth preparatory to bed. Lil answered the phone. She gave me the name. I ~~was~~ went into my office and picked that one up. He said "This is Richard Sprague" and started to explain who that is when I said "I know from your voice that you are not the other one." He laughed and that broke the ice. I'm presuaging more than that he saw the quotes of me in the Phila paper.

He then launched into how everyone, no exceptions, tells him I'm the one who knows most, has done most, etcetceto and could I come in to see him today? I started an explanation he misunderstood and that was a little fun, too. "There have been some changes in my condition perhaps some of your sources are not aware of" is the way I was going to lead in. I was not much past changes when he laughed and said "I've heard. Tha you are cantankerous." I interrupted. "crank, too." He laughed. Added hard to get along with. Then a few of the other things. I said he'd heard what is generally believed, with some/having stronger feelings than others- and stronger reasons for those feelings.

When that ran out I did explain that I would not just jump in my car and drive down, although I can, and why. I did offer to take the bus. He said no, he'd come up. I told him I could make it tomorrow, when I have to be in D.C. for the evening. He has to be in Lancaster. So he left it that, as he prefers, he'll call me later in the week, which means Thursday, for Lil to take the message, or Friday. I told him that as of now I can make it any day but the 29th.

There has been no change in my beliefs or my view of how they should and should not approach their responsibilities or what I will and will not do. After I hear what he has to say I'll be as specific as I can be.

I'll take as much time as he wants. If I become persuaded of his seriousness and his determination to do as good a job as possible and of a willingness to stand against Members when responsibility requires it I'll do everything I can for him. However, assuring me of this will require laying out the witnesses they'll hear at the outset and on what and then the general outlines of his investigation. If I do not agree with them I'll volunteer nothing. I'll tell him this. He may not believe the why, but I'll give him that, too. Perhaps beginning with a copy of the NYU speech.

There are investigative doors I can open in Texas and New Orleans for him as I'll tell him. I'll offer to go with him. If I am satisfied on all counts and issues. I think one of the tests is will he be willing to ruin Specter and I'll ask him that. Another is will he agree not to hear Lane and Mann in public until after he is satisfied that they know what they are talking about and are not merely ripoff artists. This, of course, will mean hearing Les before Les can leave for Africa are delaying that testimony until Les returns. If he hears them in public on this basis alone I'm detached. If I can't isolate the ripoff artists with the record these two have I know I'll be able to do nothing about the nuts and he'll be able to do nothing about the Members. If he is unwilling to stand against them he is lost and the investigation is certain to be a loser. I'll not waste time considering what else I can do with that time. He may find this authenticates the advance billing but that will make no difference to me. You have read my memos to Feeney and Bud. That is the way I see it, as best I could put on paper what is in my mind without stopping to think when there was no time. If you have any suggestions, please make them fast. Otherwise it will be as I say in the memos and indicate here.

Best,