

Dear Jerry,

1/29/77

The list for which you asked is enclosed. Someone coming up from Arlington may get it in the mail sooner than if I send it from here Monday.

He is not due for a half hour. Another, a radio reporter, was due an hour ago. So, I've been doing the back filing I could and odds and ends. This list brought our conversation back to mind. If I had not wanted not to miss Reetz I might have thought about it more.

My reference to Ansen was not premeditated. However, with minimal reflection, it does appear that he can be of value to me in what I want to do and I can make possible for him what he has not been able to do, so we can have common interests. I have much more than New Times in mind.

For it to mean the maximum it would have to be as close to immediate as possible.

I could be talking about something with an open end. It depends. It might include a largely-drafted book of immediate topicality and enormous potential. Until we talk I cannot say. I would not without Jim's okay, which leads to an explanation that is required.

Once I realized that the angels on my shoulder should goof off once in a while and I can get sick and am not permanent I set up an estate. Jim has not formalized it simply because he has not had time. But I have it in writing, that he and Howard are to be the executors, with dated copies outside their possession to establish the fact and the date. I therefore will do nothing that could mean anything to them without their assent. I believe that Howard would go along with Jim. In addition, Jim is my lawyer.

Prior to my first illness, 4/75, I made a verbal agreement with Wisconsin for all my papers to go there, subject to one major restriction only: someone else coming forth with funding in my lifetime. When Jim, Howard and I were there in November I began a token deposit. And by the way, the conservative reaction to a solid, responsible, factual approach would have blown Madison Avenue minds..

In any event, getting all these records, much more than you can imagine, into condition for use and reception of mere means much to me. I am, aside from the permanent consequences of the thrombophlebitis, nearing 64. And I cannot hire any help to do this. Ldl and I make out leading a very modest life. All contributions I received, all honoraria, go to Jim to pay costs of acquiring all these records I am giving away. At the current rate of expenditure Jim estimates that account will be empty in two weeks. I'll find a way of replenishing it. But this is not the way to work. It precludes efficiency and maximum output. I think that two historians you knew, Jim and Howard, and one you do not, Prof. Wrona, U. Wisc., will tell you this is really an archive without precedent, one that will grow for years with the arrangements I have made giving Jim and Howard the right (perhaps obligation) to carry it forward and making it possible over many years.

The literary potential is fantastic. Really. In ways you cannot begin to imagine as well as some of which you may know. I have whole separate files that can make movies, where the stuff is safe, not a taboo. Some is ready for immediate use, and I'm not talking about JFK and MLK materials.

I have a new thing book about 2/3 in unread draft. I call it The King Conspiracies. I could complete the draft in a month with a contract. Without it I will not start. What I have is absolutely solid, as I'm sure Jim will confirm from what he knows, and of incredible potential. It can be out before the House committee finds the navel it is thinking of contemplating. All of Lane's and Fauntroy's stuff is bullshit except for the part Lane has stolen, as New Times knows so well, having been among his victims. If I have to step now. This will go in the direction I knew is of interest to Ansen. Hastily,