

JP (HR, PH, JL)

5/29/72 Lattimer

Ever since you told me that you had gotten the Lattimer writing he had promised me and today has not sent, the writing of which I learned from Bradlee and told you, I have been concerned about the possibility of minor, ineffectual use, which can accomplish nothing and can be counter-productive. The only use I plan is in the remote event Bradlee wants to engage in a dialogue on it. I have sent you copies of my letters, not his. From them I think you can understand the prospects are not good, but you can also see that I am going to make effort nonetheless. Irresponsible or meaningless use, or any that would attract any flimsy attention to this in the major media (please note that despite the opinion he offered, Bradlee has ignored) could deter or prevent the use that might ultimately be made of this, under conditions that do not now exist. Several things are exceptional about this, one the fact that neither he nor the publication nor anyone else has attracted any attention to it (or having tried, failed). FG has had no interest. This is the first time that Lattimer has either not tried or has failed. His work has always gotten good attention. So, on the one hand lets not help him/then. Also, I suggest several other considerations we should all bear in mind. The second shoe has not yet dropped. Let us not turn off the incredible klaxon until there is no prospect of his further blabbing. To date he has provided an excellent FOI suit and in a decent, not wrongful, context, and against the right, not the wrong people. There is a good chance he can do more and will, if ignored. He has a compulsion to justify himself and the unjustifiable, and our best prospects are not when we espouse a theory but when we can overwhelmingly knock something down. I do not believe that the at best insignificant attention for which we might hope can begin to be worth what can result from total silence until there is something really worth saying and then in a way that can attract a major audience and under good auspices and circumstances. There are many circumstances some of you know in part, agreed or disagreed with in part and some of which you do not know or understand. So, although all I can do is argue and ask, I do argue for and ask for not use that can not really produce anything but analysis that might earn patience and silence that should be worth the waiting. There is much that I have that I have not even shown anyone who might be tempted to use it. I might have written a piece for which I might have gotten a small sum (no such thing in our circumstance, a relatively small sum), and I haven't. I do not propose rewriting the epilogue of PH to include. I'll probably add part to the appendix at most and will then show you what I have done. HW