

Dear Jim,

NSA/Lowenstein

8/14/75

Floyd worked on his paper all night, with Jenifer helping him until she had to leave because of her father's sudden illness. He was here at 8 a.m., dead tired. (He didn't tell me until after noon that he'd tried to phone at 6 a.m. and gotten no answer. I was without phone service until supper time because I was so late reporting this. It came from some tree branches and the phone is back in service. If you tried to phone and couldn't get through, this is why.)

Before we got to editing his thing we talked a bit about the coming NSA convention. One of Lowenstein's boys has arranged the Mayflower room for a week from Saturday. The internal disputes increase. They appear to center around the record of Mark's pal Kathy Kelley who appears to have done what many disapprove and to have been succeeded by the man who wants to succeed her.

I think this is an ideal situation for wreckers and exploiters and from what Floyd says I gather this describes the "ins." What he hears from people he knows is that NSA is in bad shape and that something of which I know nothing, National Students' Lobby (NSL) is trying to replace it. This means still another internal squabble.

It makes a meatgrinder situation. We should be careful. I've not been involved in anything except for a couple of meetings with several of the young women students and the U VA and Lowensteiners. (One of the women is returning to her home prior to the convention. She sent me a xerox slightly helpful from a criminalistics text. Her friend is an officer, so I take this as not a good sign.)

You and I are not going to get mixed up in this. My concern is for Lowenstein, who has done very well and today has what I regard as a potential victory of some magnitude or a disaster of the same rank in the ordering of the firing of the pistol. (I know of preliminary work on this that should have been done and I've not heard of it being done and we share the one basket of eggs fear.)

Phil Quadrini, one of those who was antagonistic and Maryland and the only one who remained that way is Al's boy and has returned to town. He had asked to crash with Floyd, got an invitation and then didn't show. Floyd was here all day. When he got home he had a message from Quadrini who did not answer. I suppose out or out to supper. I asked Floyd to warn Quadrini of the potential of Al's getting caught up in a fight he should not get involved in and if Quadrini wanted to phone me to discuss it. Byrne may understand it, but I've not heard from him. The Purdy-Holm clique are untrustworthy. So, what I'm writing this for is in case you hear from any you regard as solid young people of Al's. You can then give them what I can't call more than signals Al ought to be aware of.

None of the signals I get are good. Where they seem to want to do the right thing they also seem not to know how.

My own disposition is to remain as detached as possible, unless there develops a reason of which I do not now know.

Any kind of convention fight within an organization that was a CIA front, you might say a proprietary, has a good chance of attracting major media attention. The Kelley/Lane faction will know this. If Al can keep out of the fighting he may have an excellent audience for his Saturday speech.

I hope so.

Best,