

8/7/96

Dear Bill,

By accident I dropped this old Hermes on the floor when I was pushing the table to get out and it did not smash into pieces! Lucky me!!! Couple ~~hours~~ hours ago.

While I think Jerry would be glad to have a bound copy of Waketh, he just returned mine to me yesterday after copying out the several chapters he plans to use. I am certain that Dave, who has not read it, would like that copy very much. He has indicated to me that he'd like a copy. If you are willing. He, I'm happy it is getting around that little!

Before I forget, good medical news. Anemia banished. And the local cardiologist, after saying I'm doing well, said I do not have to return for three months. That is what it was before all this happened. He also said that my chest sounds good, which is what the pulmonary specialist said last week. He then did not order a chest X-ray but I'm to get one before I see him again in about 6-8 weeks.

Blood pressure yesterday 140/70. But last week 170/60. This week's good.

Before corporations got as big and rich they had people who respected honest decency and the attitude your father had to the Wayne family for what they did for your grandmother. Probably some in a few still do but they are not most, not now. Too many changes in our lives and attitudes. When I was young I faced a similar but far from identical situation that did hold the promise of riches. And I had no difficulty making a spot decision and ~~XXX~~ I've never regretted it.

In the early summer of 1936 I was investigating the labor-spy agency that called itself The Corporations' Auxiliary Company. It was owned and run by a man *J. H. Smith* who looked like everybody's grandpa. Patron of the arts, on the board of Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and among his clients for his labor spies was Chrysler. He picked up that I had spotted that through the codes. In almost no time at all he made me a proposition. If I would go to work for Chrysler immediately it had a much better paying lifetime job for me. I was then making \$30 a week and sending my widowed mother a third of it. I was on the Agriculture Dept. payroll as a clerk but was sent to the Senate and was working as an investigator-for \$30 a week! And being offered bribes! (Before long I arrange to have that salary more than doubled.)

Your reference to Silent Spring reminds me of what I was to work on when JFK was assassinated. I had an agent then and a handshake deal with Crown for me to do what nobody could have <sup>with noise</sup> done what Rachel Carson did with chemicals. I had done much of the research in trying to cope with the problems aviation noise, mostly helicopters, ~~and~~ <sup>GAVE</sup> our poultry. I'd done some original work. Some of it was

used by the NIH in international conferences. I won't go into all of that but Rachel Carson was one of a kind.

Betsy may have been shocked by what she heard but as you may know better than I, even men are not safe in that environment.

We also are both surprised and disappointed that Clinton signed the so-called Welfare improvement bill but I suppose his primary objective is re-election and he sees that as necessary for re-election. He is probably figuring that those he hurts will not vote or will still prefer him to any GOP *like Dole*.

I know the nutritional disease you mention and in the depression days saw the pictures of the amazing Striker section of the Farm Security Administration of starvation and hunger especially in the south. Margaret <sup>B</sup>Marke-White did the shocking pictures for the book I had that disappeared when I was in the army, You have seen Their Faces. If I remember correctly Erskine Caldwell wrote the text. Not Pakistan-here.

If you can come early next month that will be fine! We look forward to it. Hope Betsy can be with you but when she has this job perhaps she won't be able to. That is the situation of the MacDonald's now.

We see the Southwest fares and marvel at them! Advertised for out of BWI. <sup>which</sup> is a very good airport.

If you remember the few words I spoke at Hood when they gave us the degrees, they were all about Lil and how glad I was that she was included. What I've done would not have been possible without her and she rarely got credit. Just the dirtier work.

As a matter of fact she was a looker when young. I'll show you a picture.

But she had more than looks.

When I met her she had been dating Hugo Black's nephew who worked for him at the Senate, Hollis Black.

And she has put up with much, very much.

Even including long before you were by on strangers knocking at the door and telling her I'd invited them. (Once that was the youthful star of the Olson & Johnson hit show Hellzapoppin, the <sup>and</sup>oompsadasie Girl and her close friend also young, in that cast. All they wanted was a home-cooked meal. I'd used the star in pictures for a story. Not many nights the studio couch when we lived downtown was not slept in. Once when I was in the CBS <sup>and</sup> had been asked to <sup>take</sup> look in a young man just returned from overseas. He was a Hungarian refugee who had been the youngest officer in the Spanish Republican Army. His family. Supposed to be for a few days. It was six months before Lil complained! And he left. Back to work.

Thanks and best,

*Harold*