

Dear Jen,

11/13/74

You should have your WWIV by now. Lesar sent it from D.C. I had no copies. In fact, I'm hoping the printer will deliver them within the hour. About time!

I have not seen and would appreciate copies of Nick Chriss' pieces. The Foreman one he wrote in my motel room, on the portable I'd borrowed in Memphis, was at least in part from about 300 pages of evidence I got for him. I have no idea what he wrote for I didn't ask and worked on other things while he typed, assisted by a reporter friend of us both.

I saw one of Waldren's articles only. I know he began with some of Livingston's feelishness, which gave the desks of other reporters and the reporters themselves fits! I'd appreciate copies of them, too.

Martin and I grew to be friends. Each morning when I'd finish my visit/interview with Ray with a few minutes before court opened I'd ask him if he wanted to corrupt me and each morning he treated me to a cup of coffee. The last night there he and the major & media reporters had a party to which he invited me. We drank, beginning with Me and me & before 6 and until some time after one a.m. We have spoken since and he believes I, too, was drunk. Wasn't. Walked back to motel with the State team, which bumped into and joined us and made arrangements for the preservation of some evidence they agreed to but didn't. Because I was sure they wouldn't, I made arrangements for this before I left.

Several of Me's stories or comments may amuse you. The first week, when I had gotten into the hallway before he did on the break and had lit up, he came up and asked, "Aren't you ashamed of yourself?" I asked why and he said "For fucking up the while FBI" plus the State and county. The last day of the testimony, when we'd in effect kidnapped the last two of the State's rebuttal witnesses and made them sure (100% record, by the way), he chided me on the break the State took to consider its course. "Harold, you old bastard," he said, "don't you know what overkill is?" This related mostly to my preparing a lawyer to capture the vice president of Manton produced as a surprise witness. (Off the record, in the only private place we had, Ray's cell!) Manton thus testified for us.

This gives you a bit of the flavor. Lesar carried the heaviest legal load, doing most in court and doing it remarkably well despite terrible handicaps.

If it represents no great trouble, if your Post stories are from their syndicate rather than from the Post itself I'd appreciate copies. If from the Post, I have them. However, they sometimes syndicate more than they carried. Paul Valentine worked hard. His notes were extensive, much more than is justified by what the Post printed.

Chriss is based in Houston, as is Waldren. I therefore assume he knows enough about Percy the Magister. And welcomed documentation.

If you do phone Koch, the most important single thing is to impress him with not putting in where ancillary rights are involved and where reaching the more influential on Capitol Hill is in question. He wants to help, thinks I've been lying to him about the problems we face, and it may all be a mask for an unsatisfied ego. But as you knew, Gonzalez, his beginning, is a peer last resort. I have a firm offer for first-use by (don't tell him) The National Star and await word from (again don't tell him) Harper's. Needs of the day work, which fell on Lesar and me entirely, made earlier efforts impossible.

Keeping senior counsel from blowing everything was a major problem.

Appreciate copies on what you file post 11/22. Thanks and best,

ZODIAC NEWS SERVICE

November 11, 1974

Dear Harold:

I have enclosed a check for eight dollars to cover the cost of your new book and the air mail postage to rush it to me.

As I have told you, I will scrupulously obey and observe any and all "embargos" or "release dates" which you wish to impose.

I'm anxious to read the work ahead of time so that our news service will be fully equipped to write a thorough and meaningful story the minute the release date arrives.

When I was talking to you on the phone earlier today, I mentioned there was one question which I forgot to ask (it slipped my mind, although it wasn't particularly important). The minute I hung up (as always happens) I remembered it.

The question is: did you see the Nick Chriss articles in the Los Angeles Times on the recent Ray hearing? I know that you -- like we do -- get the New York Times and Washington Post. But I don't know if you also get the L.A. Times, or if you've seen Chriss's articles, including a not-to-subtle hatchet job on Percy Foreman.

If you haven't seen them and want copies, I could send them along to you. We kept rather crude files on the Post, The N.Y. Times and the L.A. Times version of the Ray hearings.

I look forward to receiving your newest book, and will immediately send copies of any stories ZNS does on the basis of it.

I'll talk to you in the near future. Take care.

Sincerely,


Jon Newhall

P.S. I'll call Paul Houck (sp?) in the next week or so, to see what he's up to now.

950 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94103
(415) 956-3555