

10858 Fruitland Drive

8/11/76

Mr. Art Kevin
10858 Fruitland Drive
Studio City, Ca. 91604

Dear Art,

Yesterday and today ABC's AM America show puffed a Playboy story I have not seen. I know of it only what was aired by Larry Gonzales, who I believe is their articles editor, and a writer named Dubois.

In doctrine, if one can judge from these shows, the articles are a job for the CIA, not against it. I do not think this was the intent. I am certain it is the result.

I am dismayed that a man of Hefner's pretensions (and I do not mean that the better-known ones are not genuine) is endlessly involved in sycophancy and that regardless of intentions Playboy corrupts so many minds, now millions more via TV.

As I'm sure you know, real investigative reporting is becoming extinct. When I was in the hospital last year Les Whitten came to see me. (He had a lead on some authentic spooking, not the Playboy pap. He brought that with him. I told him immediately how to establish the entire FBI back-channel system from the paper leaked to him.) He told me that I am among the last of a disappearing breed, which was as flattering as it was discouraging. I've had several disagreeable and costly experiences with what Playboy calls investigative reporting. Most recently as their consultant on the miserable assassination series. The only substance in anything new was stolen from me. This same Gonzales actually told me that they believe and their lawyer tells them that once something has been published they can steal it with impunity. If I can take them to court we'll find out.

But in this case I have something else in mind, not the claims against them for truly despicable journalism and personal and professional conduct.

I know much about Watergate, as you can remember for from your own experience. If I never told you I wrote two books. The first began with an approach from a German publisher who then chickened out. I was then writing a book about a breaking story as it broke and often before it broke, with full background. Before it grew too long and I had to lay it aside I had done three Hughes chapters, virtually all from public domain, with all sources credited. Far from the end I had about 600 double-spaced pages.

The day I was drafted the of the Hughes chapters I sent them to an agent to whom I'd been referred by a friend. This was before the little the Ervin committee did on that. It included more than they did, too. But the agent returned it in expressed disbelief. While this is a side issue, it may interest you to know that there is reason to suspect a connection between the agency, not the agent, and The Agency. I developed this later.

Because of the size I laid that book aside, using none of it, and started a new one titled and completed long before the event, The Unimpeachment of Richard Nixon. I had to lay it aside toward the end of summer 1974 for my work on the Ray evidentiary hearing. I was then in the conclusions. It is an unread ms except where I had to read to pick up the train of thought. I was then also filing and winning FOIA lawsuits and did Whitewash IV and published it.

The only authentic Watergate secrets of which I know or in which I have any reason for confidence are in it. There are none that have been published since. Even this new Playboy conjecture is not new. It originated years ago with both left and right. Colson is the best-known exponent of the right. I address that I think with definitiveness in The Unimpeachment.

These "investigative reporters" are bearded babies.

As shown on the Xerox tube the memo Johnny Meier gave them could not be read. I doubt very much that anyone in the CIA ever ~~me~~ wrote a memo that explicitly tells the Hughes gang to support politicians with disguised Agency money. But if it is literally true, major a subversion as it is, it is nothing to what I have in this kind of domestic CIA operations. This is one of the real Watergate secrets, one of the things the CIA really had to hide. This is certain, proven, with many ramifications of a nature that could determine the coming election.

It is of such a nature that compared with it what was on those 18 1/2 minutes called Rose Mary's boobee - and I do have this - is minor.

So much!

And I'm into too much, without real choices.

Some time back, when I heard that Steve Jaffe was close to Hafner, I tried to write him. The last letter was returned. Wrong address. This was months ago. I wanted to reach Hafner on this. I don't know how. Perhaps you can.

If it is too late for a Playboy piece before the election it is not too late for other uses, with articles or the book to follow.

If he knows of me only the little he has read in his skin-marketings he knows me not at all.

I've been almost overwhelmed trying to meet the mandate of the federal appeals court in a sweeping decision that is a major FOIA victory. It has told me not what I may do but what I "must" and that it is in "the nation's interest." Unreported but I have a copy of the printed decision in a friend out there. It is taking a great amount of time and work.

More now because my lawyer is leaving for a month in Singapore tomorrow. Incidentally, he can confirm what I've indicated above. He helped me with some of the work. His included obtaining copies of records for me, records others did not know about and mean nothing by themselves. But in context dynamite records!

Excuse the haste. Time for the mail and my morning walk. Thanks and hope you get that vacation and get here.

Best,