

1/3/70

Dear Jerry,

This is sort of off the top of my head, merely to raise questions of possibility should the need for which I hope come to pass. I ask you not to broadcast it (tell Robert, but also tell him not to advertise). The 1970 review has been completed and a fair number of pages that were withheld now are not. I have some, and a few are terrific. I have a list, but it is meaningless. I plan to drop everything and try and make a more meaningful inventory beginning tomorrow, if the roads are okay. And, although I don't know now how I can do it, I want to be able to buy every page. For one thing, I do not want to pinpoint my interest, this having led to the slipping out of documents and their reclassification in the past. For another, without careful study, not possible there (and as I've just learned again as I'll show you when you are here again, it is not possible to extract the essence, usually hidden.

What I now have it but 40 pages. There may be 2,000. If I get and then have to card them, that will take me from other work for some time, and aside from what may be required for and in litigation, I want very much to write again and may soon have to go out and promote FRAME-UP. So, I've been thinking, who might be able to and might want to make card files on this stuff if I can get it?

I thought of Eve and her apparently willingness. One of the questions that comes up is, if she is willing, does she have time-off coming and if she does, would she want to spend it this way? When you can, without commitment, would you ask when you see her?

There is a prima facie case of booby-trapping in what I now have, so I fear the kind of stuff with which we have been afflicted, cheap and injudicious use by publicity-seekers. Some should never have been released, but Mitchell personally did it. Some, if used now, would kill the chance of carrying great stuff forward. And one of us has gone crazy trying to let all the nuts know that all this can be had--so there can be more Skolnicks, more Spragues-in-Computers, etc, which would be a great burden in court and might kill the next declassification. And hurt, as the younger and less-informed do not realize.

Of this I am deeply troubled. Of it I can now do no more than I have already tried, what has been done having been before I learned of it. I will not be liked more for some of what I've written, but our success is at stake.

This is separate from whether or not Eve can or would do this. It would be the making of a record from which the material could be located. I'd mark the file on the back of each, and she'd make the cards.

If the weather doesn't preclude, I'll spend the first part of the weeks at the Archives. I have to leave town for a few days the end of the week.

Hope you've had a good holiday. I can imagine what the reunion will be.

Sincerely,