

3/2/76

Mr. Sol Rabkin  
75 Henry St.  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

Dear Sol,

Don't write me off just yet. I'll be up there to prove it pretty soon.

Your letter of the 20th came when I was trying to finish up the second part of the new book (did) before leaving for a couple of days, a day of work in D.C and then to Detroit early the next morning for a speech, back the same evening.

So, I got up 5:30 Thursday to catch the 7:00 a.m. bus, walked to each of two appointments, worked a little with my lawyer at his home/office and when he got busy on other matters began a detailed analysis of a cruddy FBI answer to interrogatories. After supper some of my collegu-student friends picked me up. One wanted to go with me, as he has before. I stayed with him. But he chose that night for a party. And it grew because he was uneasy about depending on his van, new and good but improperly repaired. He is near College Park. So, two young women students who room together at American, one with a good new car, came over to drive us to National Airport first thing in the a.m. Their party lasted until 3 a.m. I went to bed at 2, until 5:45. (The two girls, fortunately, are petite. They slept on one sofa, fett to face!)

I had outlined my speech the week before on the same bus to D.C. This Thursday I began writing Part 3 in longhand. On a bus!

On the plane, instead of reviewing my speech, I continued working on those interrogatory (non) responses, as I did on the way back. The speech was a smashing success - my first to an all-black audience and on the King assassination. Best audience I've ever had, too.

Another couple of college youngsters met the plane on our return and drove me home.

And by 2 p.m. yesterday I had mailed about 10,000 words of analysis of the Answer to be used as the basis of an affidavit for me to execute. Tough one, too.

Or, I still function.

Medically nothing new.

I'll be in New York the week of the 15. Speak at Hunter afternoon of 17th. I'm not going to tackle subway steps and crowds or standing on buses at rush-hour. I'd like to find an inexpensive hotel in ~~xxxx~~ central Manhattan. The chief thing I'll be staying there for after I speak is to go over Dell's books. This may take longer than they think. They've agreed and the contract requires it. But I can walk and that is good for me. It is the one exercise I get and not enough. So if I'm downtown I can walk wherever I have to go and if I'm out nights I'll use cabs. The honorarium will pay for it but I don't want to shoot it all on a hotel. There are other things that can annoy friend, from the possibility of much time on the phone to the washing and hanging to dry of the supports I wear and the talcum needed to put them on. So, if you know of such a place, please let me know. Better than a fleabag but not the posh. Maybe we can get together/then, maybe all of us for dinner?

Best to you all. Work calls.

SOL RABKIN  
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75 HENRY STREET  
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Feb 20, 1976

Dear Harold,

My primary reaction to your letter of 7-16-12 was of shock and concern. I simply find it difficult to accept the apparent fact that my old friend and confidante, Harold is really seriously in physical trouble. I suppose I reject the notion because it affects me almost as much as it affects you, bringing home to me the fact that I am not invulnerable to the ills that affect the bodies of others, that I am heir to the ills of the flesh like everyone. You were always strong and able to cope with physical projects. I would not have taken him digging out the other half of the cellar under the house you and Ted had in Virginia when Nancy was a baby.

I lost it with feelings of incredulity that I heard that you may have an arterial blockage as well as a venal one. My sister-in-law, Rae, who died in her sleep on January 29, 1975 had arterial troubles which required two operations for rearing out her femoral arteries. She, too, was a heavy smoker who had to give up because she was also a diabetic who took insulin for years and it is probably that drug which caused the vascular problems. After using the drug for years, the medics finally discovered that it adversely affects the circulatory system.

I do hope that the final result of your physical tests is that you have not got the arterial troubles, that you will quickly recover from your current very serious ailments and that we will be able to continue on

friendship for many years to come with you helping up  
the work you're doing to assure justice for all, to  
check on abuses of governmental power and to act as a  
godfather of honesty for those who begin to believe  
that their civic power raises them above the law.

I'm sorry I can't help you with your problem of  
getting a competent lawyer in Washington. Those  
I know are too busy advancing their own interests  
to slip aside to help you young man and to change  
the adverse experiences to which you have been exposed  
for breaching the power that be. I'm also sorry I can't  
help with your New York lawyer problems. I can't.  
I'm hindered by the job I have. And the man I have  
do my work, Sid Ostro, is semi-retired. He is in  
Florida now until April. When he comes back  
I'll talk to him about your problems. Maybe  
he can be of help in the manner you ask.

As for my retiring, I don't intend to for at least  
a couple of years. And if I do, it will only be to loose  
the shackles of the court job and to do some work  
on my own for the causes I hold dear, equal  
justice, equal housing, helping my family and  
friends.

So please take care, stay well and let us  
hear from you, especially if you need help we  
can give. Love to all. Freda & Nancy send their  
love to both of you.

Sincerely  
Sol