

Dear Howard (Dick),

To show you how foggy I am today, I got your mailing of the 15th yesterday, rather fast, read it in Washington while I awaited Bud's return to his office, and save for two things, have no present recollection of it. These two things are the "Thank you" card you got and one of your comments to Rick, on explaining the characteristics and behavior of the ammo, which coincides with what I had also counselled. For the "Thank youer", while I could send him the enclosed copy~~maxx~~ of the Publisher's Weekly review of FRAME-Up, I think it might be more effective if you do, if it isn't too much trouble. He will not be home for a while. By the way, if you can find time, before doing that, you might show it to the campus bookstore. It might persuade them to stock. Right now I so regret that Jack McKinney is in Ireland (or was when last I heard). We could have done a show that would have sold out all Phila supplies overnight!

I filed my response to the government's motion in the clothing/pic suit yesterday, on time, but entirely unread. It is book-length, with 110 pages (legal size, 1 1/2 space) full of law, argument, doctrine, regulations, reasonings, motions, etc, and the strongest possible charges against Rhoads (perjury) and the US Atty, plus what I regard as what, under this great time pressure, is a solid documentation of deception, the intent to deceive, misrepresentation (a very serious thing when addressed to a member of the bar)

There was some hazard in doing this. It telegraphs pretty much all my case to the government. I am not at all reluctant on that score, for there is no honest response and, hopefully, I will detect any dishonest ones at the hearing. If the judge is a good one and reads all of this, he'll be climbing walls and castigating the government. If he is not, he'll be looking for ways to clobber me. We'll see, in time. Dick is second on the list of those to receive a copy ^{one} of the two-I have to hold the other because of the possibility of typos, not having been able to read this before filing copies of the rough draft. You are closer, so I will be sending you a carbon of what I filed.

Bugging clip: Glad to get. Since then ABA approved. I hope they are among the first new victims... Agnew should stick to hitting the innocent with golf balls... The Strategy story I return in the event you need it, it is self-deception. The Kremlin, I am confident, doesn't believe there is more than a single Nixon, the "new" being different from the "old" only in terms of misrepresentation of both... Condensation on Laos will be helpful.

On the JFK-withdrawal stuff: I can't find my files and have no record of to whom I loaned it so long ago, so what I told you was from recall. If you copy these clippings, I'd appreciate copies. As I recall it, my data show the original (and what became only) withdrawal was 223 of an announced 1,700. I forgot what the general told me, but I think it was approximately this. I'm glad your research confirms so much of my recollection.

I think you may have simplified too much in saying JFK wanted to put policy back in the State Dept. I think it would be more accurate to say civilian control, to include limiting the spooks (and again I recommend the Laos chapter(s) in Wise and Ross), and to have State perform its traditional role. Rather than making policy, that is implementing. Without taking time to think or thinking of going over my notes and files, I suggest that what he was really aiming at was being more independent, making more of his own policy, and arranging the government to these ends. I think he wanted to pull back from many areas.

Rockefeller's criticism is not as invalid as it may appear. If you ignore what he surely did, the new and recent postures and positions, for the total JFK administration his was a legitimate criticism, not just a political one. It did have orientation (wrong) and it did lack central, consistent planning, tending toward improvisations. I can explain this when you are here. JFK tried to keep everybody happy some way, even though he couldn't in all ways. Thus some of the major problems of today come from him. SST for one F-111 for another, Even C5a, the continuation of nuclear testing, the continuation of missile-building.

Gotta get to other things.

Best,