

4/2/77

Dear Howard,

What you say in your 3/29 is as it must be. But I did have more in mind under "gofor" and I've still not heard from Zebra.

Until I have a deal or a solid prospect writing is premature at the rate I'm getting records. I'm seven volumes behind in reading them!

My thoughts are in accord with yours on the editing. If there is something to edit and then if there is time.

Thanks.

If I forgot to give him the message on b3 before this time I've put your note in an envelope addressed to him.

Between the committee and other developments much is up.

I've been helping Waldron on a Times story. I think Gardiner may find use for much of what he has been getting from me in a Sunday piece. Know in the morning.

You will have heard that the letter we received from P.S. is said to be the real L.H.O. writing. If so maybe I've figured that one out.

Poor deM had flipped out. His story as repeated by Oltmans, even if not embellished, is a fabrication from obvious public sources. Oltmans knew he had made it all up. So did others, like Max Clark, interviewed today by a friend of mine, independently of the source on Oltmans.

We like Mo. And the way he does things.

Yesterday afternoon he walked past the window of my office and waved at me. I holler to Lil, who was at the other end of the house, "Hide the silver! Look who's here!" It was loud so he could hear me through the insulating windows. But it scared Lil, who thought something had happened to me.

He had not even phoned to see if I was home.

And he had a bottle of excellent Scotch with him. Bought with Md. stamps.

We've stayed in touch all day by phone and will be in touch again in the a.m.

I'm hopeful about what he'll wind up with. He's a first-rate reporter, not just a friend we both cherish.

I've obtained proofs of Lane's monstrosity. Only Jim and Mo know. Jim has a xerox. I've not had time to look at it. Jim says it is terrible and vicious. One of Lane's credits is to Policoff.

We've had the lane paved. This is why Mo had to walk in and I did not hear his car.

We are also going to update the copying machine. We can't afford to and we can't afford not to. Time is scarce.

There is going to be another Archives release soon. Johnson confirmed it Monday when I saw him. Depositions.

Hope your quest for Jacksonville quarters goes well.

best,

3/29/77

Dear Harold,

I'm writing now in response to your letter re the King book and Zebra. I'll write later re the memo of transfer matter and will, of course, carbon you on further letters I write. I will address specific requests to Archives, DJ and SS on that.

I would like to help you on the King book, but, as you understand, I am operating under many limitations during this period. I doubt that I could come up for 2 weeks. Also, you described 2 types of work: the "gofor" and the editor/rewriter. I think I'd be of limited help as a gofor, simply because I am not familiar with the King files (indeed, not very familiar with the facts of the case) and thus would have to learn them from scratch. I think anyone else could fill that roll as easily as I could. I do think I have the credentials for editing, both on the basis of skill and experience, particularly experience with your writing. If we can work some arrangement for me to do most of the work from Gainesville, I'd be willing to edit the book or rewrite where I felt--and we agreed--it was needed. I could do a quick turnover.

Besides studying for the bar exam and tying up loose ends, I will have many other things to keep me busy. Next week Duane and I go to Jacksonville to look for a place to live, to move first week in June. The LAW Review is interested in publishing a paper I did for a course last quarter, which means updating and expanding. Also, I have just learned of a firm in town that needs a part-time clerk right away to work on a civil rights case, and I plan to look into that, for I could use the money.

Let me know your thoughts. As of your letter of this, you didn't have details of what publisher's arrangements would be, e.g., are they willing to provide their own editor or to pay you to hire one? Deadlines? Also, are there plans for appendix? facsimile reproductions? If not, I assume at any rate this is not the type of book with footnotes (even if there were some way that you could footnote to specific documents not published). I would suggest, if at all possible, that you follow a practice I think you've used in the past--to append a copy of the document you are discussing to the relevant section of the draft. That would serve several purposes. It would leave you with a way of getting back to your source, absent of footnotes, at some time in the future when you can't quite place it; also, it would be a great aide to an editor not intimately familiar with the evidence who has questions about what you are saying in the text.

Please keep me posted.

Best,

Howard