

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701

5/16/74

Dear Arvin,

Because you were kind to me and because you seem like the kind of man who wants to help what he believes in, I write not only to thank you but to tell you what I would not say in making application for foundation help.

First of all, my interest in justice comes from my background. I am a first-generation American so many of whose relatives died in the pogroms my family would never talk about it in my presence.

With this kind of history, it was, I think, more natural for me to recognize Hitler for what he was when others did not and to fight him and his U.S. collaborators when others didn't and as they didn't. This led to the first two of the many curses I bear. I also fought Martin Dies and I exposed Hitler's U.S. allies in business and industry in my writing.

I was writing a book on the Dies committee and had it all researched but day to day needs kept me from completing it until one night, during the day of The Hollywood Ten, one of them knocked at my door and asked for this help. They never used it and they never returned it. (I expect I have a few duplicates.) Had they I am confident their histories would have been different. Dies tried to frame me. In fact, he had a law passed to "get" me. This is the same law Senator Weicher referred to with respect to Colson during the Watergate hearings. The Texas gang held up the appointment of the U.S. Attorney for Washington to be a federal judge to get him to indict me. But I took the grand jury away, they refused to indict me in the Dies frame-up, and because of the way I fight, when I have no choice, they did what I believe has not since been repeated. They indicted his agent who was part of the attempted frame-up. (Sentence, two years.)

Dies was a native Nazi, as were almost all his committee and staff. He was an anti-Semite, the one who made the committee that later made Nixon.

I was then a very young man. I had been a reporter and a Senate investigator and I turned to writing again. I exposed some of the more powerful elements in American industry because of their Nazi connections and services. This made me more powerful enemies. In the second and not the last attempt to frame me Hugh Scott, until now Nixon's staunch defender, took the lead when he was a Congressman and a member of the House Patents Committee. One of the corporations I exposed was in his District in Philadelphia. It made and makes Plexiglas. (Hitler could compute our aviation production from the royalties they paid illegally to a Swiss front.) As with Dies, I was no shrinking violet in my testimony, I had my facts solid and straight, and neither committee has ever dared to print my testimony.

You mentioned the ADL. I am the one who got their Washington representative of that period, (Rabbi) Paul Richman, into the White House. I had friends there and I had done them a series of services. Once when they asked help of me that I could have given I used this as a means of introducing the ADL. Paul used to call me a one-man ADL. With some of the native Nazis I have been. I have one archive that includes all the secret Minutemen material, obtained from an inside source. This is of more recent vintage, not that period. I gave a set of copies to a police department where many wealthy Jews live, another to the FBI, and my set is in the hands of a lawyer who used it to defend unpopular clients (with whose beliefs I am not in sympathy) when they were also framed.

In still another framing, again because I pursued Nazis, and what was really a pogrom, I was fired by the State Department, with nine others, all Jews save one married to a Jew. All scholars and afraid to fight. First I persuaded them to fight back and then got the firm then known as Arnold, Fortas and Porter, to take our case without fee. You see my interest and connection now? We won, were rehired, but we got gypped out of back pay. The deal included our resignations.

Being against any kind of fascism became unpopular, particularly if one had been what was actually called a "premature anti-fascist." So I decided the hell with it, I'd become a farmer and become free. The truth is that I became an internationally famous farmer, was consultant to our own state and federal governments and to others, even to the French government on geese! I was even a "cover-boy" in the poultry press. But at the time our business began to succeed - and I began it by clearing the land with my bare hands - military helicopters found us out and ruined the operation. Take this literally. In fighting that I established one of the basic principles of noise-ecology law, the property owner's ownership of the air space to the point he requires it for the enjoyment of his constitutional rights.

Even the Secretary of Defense was unable to stop his own helicopters' overflights, and neither the chickens nor my wife could abide it. My wife became as conditioned to noise and any aviation like Pavlov's dogs to the bell.

So, I decided to return to writing, had a handshake deal on two books on noise and what it does, when JFK was killed. (I did do basic behavioral work in an effort to cope with the consequences of the helicopters.) Trying to write about this assassination cost me my agent. The next six refused to touch the subject, and when I did the book without an agent more than 100 publishers internationally refused to publish, although in this probably record-breaking number of submissions there was no single adverse editorial comment made to me.

So, I invented the "underground" book, made a success of it without a penny to spend on advertising and promotion, and when it went into reprint and became a best-seller in that form, it became apparent that what Haig calls "sinister forces" were working in the background. I got gypped out of at least half the royalties. In fact, only one of the major wholesalers with whom I dealt on my own edition did not gyp me. That one was the relative of a friend. There was no single "return" that some trucker did not ruin so the books could not be resold. If this sounds paranoid, there are records leaving no doubt. And I even have copies of reprint editions never accounted for. I have been able to collect only where it was physically possible for me to act as my own attorney. I know no lawyers where I'd have to sue and had no money with which to pay them.

In all of this I had no subsidy or financial help of any kind except for the \$500 I borrowed as a down-payment to the printer for the first of the series of underground books. They remain today the basic books in the field and mine remains the basic work.

In all of this I was also my own investigator and researcher. I have what the Warren Commission did not, and it is more basic evidence than any in its 300 cubic feet of records. In fact I have the most definitive of all the books completed and ready for the camera for still another underground book, but the cost is beyond me. Had I been able to publish it when it was completed it might have made a difference.

All of this made even more powerful enemies for me, particularly the CIA and the FBI. Aside from unpopularity from inventing the underground book, publishers fear me and regardless of what they say, they also fear government retaliation. Until now at least it has been safer to expose a president than the spooks. I continue to get editorial approvals and policy rejections.

It is my investigation that enabled Bud and his young volunteer assistant Jim Lesar to get the order for the evidentiary hearing in the Ray case. I have done all the basic investigation of the King assassination. The lawyer who salter Ray away, the famous Percy Foreman, fled a New York TV studio when he learned he was to confront me. If this sounds like an exaggeration, ask Lesar what happens to Foreman when he merely thinks of me!

And I have done all of this work without a penny of pay. Bud did pay most of my expenses in the pre-court work I did after I had done the major part of the investigation and gotten Ray as his client.

And all of this has impoverished me to a degree I think you probably will not be able to comprehend. This is why I did not again go to the Fund for Investigative Reporting as

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soon as you told me. I simply haven't the slight cost of a trip to Washington. When I had to go there for a medical appointment I did go to Bray's office. He was busy all the time I had until I had to go to the doctor's. I did speak to his woman assistant. She did say he would phone me. He hasn't. When I am again in Washington, I will again go there. But because of the connection of the Sterns I expect nothing. The Washington and the New Orleans Sterns are dead set against my work. The New Orleans branch financed the anti-Garrison work.

By the way, I also drafted a letter to the speakers' bureau, then got ill and now am too deeply into work on The Watergate that will never appear unless somehow I can do it. You have seen a few samples only.

You suggested an outline. I try to be an honorable man. Not only do I think that no publisher will touch a book as hot as this one and bring down on his head what he would be right to fear, but there is this thing that is unique about my books: I deal with "breaking" stories, like the newspapers. This means that charges are required by developments. So there is no outline that I would not have to change. And with all of this, unlike newspapers, I have to produce what will not be ruined by developments.

However I will do it I do not know, but I do know that I will write this book. We will, somehow, get along on the two days' work my wife has each week. And when it is completed I will see if I can find someone with the guts to let me have the money to print it. Then, much older and wearier, I will try to find some way to let its existence be known.

It may be that as it has been for years I will remain a man who can do no more than make a record for history. If this is all I can do, I will do it and hope that at some point it has some value to the country.

I don't have to tell you what has happened to colleges and to the economy. The colleges that want this work have no funding for it and me.

But if in the end I get no help, in the end this work will still wind up at a college, the local one if no other one comes forward with help. My work is my one asset.

I could not apply for help with any account of my financial condition. This would have been to beg. I have a bad back, but through all the many fights of a long and controversial life I have and I will remain erect.

For your willingness to try to help I am in your debt. And I do thank you.

I hope circumstances bring us together again. It was pleasant.

Sincerely,

And best to Maggie, too!

P.S. It occurs to me that my saying this work will not be done unless I do it may appear egocentric. Should you ever want to check it, months ago Lesar was with me when I gave CBS the check I gave you. I told them that if they would merely consult with me on the necessary investigation, I would lead them to a major story and that without it they would develop nothing on their own. They would not listen and they came up with nothing. I knew it was the laundering of the bribing of the Cubans. The tapes now confirm this. Lesar was also with me when I gave Newsweek what is more basic than any allegation made about fraud in Nixon's taxes than anything that has yet appeared. It has never been used. Lesar's phone is 202/484-6023. I think he will confirm that the existing terror, not reported, extends to the best of the judges. This is true also of the Washington Post, to which I gave quite a bit. The local history professor who has read all my notes (and not everything is in notes) can give enough chapters and enough verses. He is Dr. McKnight, whose home phone is 300/345-7666. This fear extends to me. I am feared by the media. When this same CBS reporter told me by phone after the transcripts were out that I was right and I made him the same offer on taxes, he again declined. it.