

2/23/71

Dear Jim,

Glad to hear from you. I'm about to leave for Memphis, returning the end of the week. The financial problems with which you live have been my companions for years. I understand them too well. You ought have to worry about the debt I carry and you'd know what this burden can really be!

You are in an area that, from the local reports, is one of high unemployment. If you are looking for a job, perhaps a trade, why not try and combine two things: get in touch with Pat Doyle for me, as I asked through Paul in a letter that may have reached you by now, for copies of his son's film, and to see if he has a job. He is an electrical contractor, remember.

The "English gentlemen" to whom you refer are/were known as "remittance men". It is because, in the eyes of their peers and their society that they were not considered gentlemen that they were paid to stay away.

Aside from your personal problems, there are reasons of which you may not be aware that can explain why you are not functioning as you'd like. The most obvious three are the continuation of the repression, the smaller number of our ranks, and the too wide-spread irresponsibility of some of those in it. These can all depress. Try not to let them. There are, in fact, some advantages for our being fewer. While we can ill afford the forced abstinence of so brilliant a person as Sylvia, there are others who I need not name who help us by their absence. Don't be too discouraged.

I have sent Paul a letter with a copy for you in the event he felt you'd be interested on that aspect. It is one that can, as we get into it, present some hazard and, I think, from now on requires the tightest security. Because of some sources we now have, without this assurance I'll have to hold back anything more I can learn. I'm assuming I will. And if what we believe is correct, the tenderness of powerful people can't be exaggerated. This may involve one of the reasons for withholding the Doyle and other films from the Commission. Have you ever asked yourself why the FBI should not have rushed to them with it if it didn't show something they didn't want shown? Doyle told me that he, Wilson and the son are all satisfied it was edited. I've filed DJ-118 forms on it and another with no response for months. They are up tight.

When you decide on what aspects you will want to continue working, I'll keep you updated as best I can. I'll also have a complete set of everything in the 1970 declassification. Paul, wiseless for his purposes, will be more selective. The Texas people will also have a complete set.

Best regards and good luck,



Feb. 20, 1971

Dear Harold,

Received your two 2/18 letters to Paul & myself, today. For this I thank you very much.

You showed my zip code "97715" whereas this should be "97215". I minor matter perhaps but of the variety that causes empires to crumble.

Have been meaning to write you for some time, about a variety of subjects pertaining to our work, but something usually intervenes so I figured I'd send you a brief note, and follow up later with some notes on various subjects.

The situation here is very bad for me. Or maybe that should be "here and every place else". I am out of work and flat broke, a condition which makes even the feeblest tasks impossible sometimes. What little cash I can obtain locally by cajolery or chicanery goes to fuel my insatiable cigarette habit. There is rarely anything left for such small items (cents, not dollars) as postage, as Paul could tell you; he has been the victim.

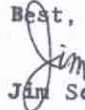
What I should have been is one of those English gentlemen (unfortunately I am neither) who has a lifetime income of 1500 pounds and is free to devote his life to his favorite intellectual pursuits (In my case the destruction of the Whitewash Report and an occasional chess tournament) but alas! it was not to be.

All the above is not really to complain but to explain why I am not functioning as well as I want to. Maybe I will get myself straightened out one of these days and join the effort full steam.

The more you and Paul keep me posted the better I will be able to assist. There is quite a bit of work that has already been done by others, which I need to fit in with what I am working on, and I will be asking about it.

The "Latin Names List" has been greatly augmented, and retyped, and I think it would be very useful to a researcher in our field. I hope to see to it that you and Paul have a copy, as soon as I can.

Best,

  
Jim Schmitt

c/c: PH