

4/7/70

Dear Gary,

Jerry phoned me tonight, so I know you two spoke. Apparently you had not gotten my letters dealing with Skolnick.

Yesterday I listened to the Holmes/ Penabaz tapes. Holmes is a very sick, lonely, frustrated woman with an enormous ego and, I would guess, a very great unhappiness. She is entirely undependable. Anybody who sent her to Vince thereby expressed the greatest contempt for him. I doubt if she was federally-sent. I did not make a copy. It is awful trash.

Penabaz is interesting and I dubbed it. His closeness to Nixon is news and not surprising. I wish I'd had it in COUP. Perhaps I'll add it as a note. This is, as my book already indicates, a dangerous, sinister man, the more so because he is not unintelligent. He is not just nuts; he believes it, no less sincerely than Bringuier. I'd be very interested in knowing the date he made that speech, for he repeats what the FBI proved entirely false by one no less insanely oriented than he.

It is difficult to believe these people can really believe that awful, irrational, invented stuff, but I really do believe that they really do believe it.

Bud did see my favorite baddie. We had little time to talk, so there is little he could tell me. However, I think he had little to say, there having been no real developments. This is the way I outlined it to him, from my estimate of Mr. Baddie and Bud seems to agree. It will have to be taken slowly, unforced, with confidence gradually building. Meanwhile, he has a copy of COUP II, will read it and will make written comments. It was hand delivered and he knows what it says of Stoner, etc. We'll see.

I also spent an hour backgrounding my friend George Herman, CBS news. Shook him, but there is nothing he can do but know and, if there is an appropriate occasion, recall.

There was nothing in the Rolapp letter leading to mine to Mitchell, sent in a letter already sealed, so I saved the copy. Bud okayed my letter. I am taking these to him even though he will not handle that.

Sylvia phoned tonight after reading the Skolnick news and was unhappy at the truth. She apparently knew some of the contents of COUP, which I have not sent her. I suppose it is possible I may have mented what she referred to when I last saw her, which now seems long ago.

What do you think of GSA censoring what SS gives me? I think it gives us quite a perspective, and I am not saying or indicating I believe GSA is acting entirely on its own. There is no evidence it is not, however. I regard this as very significant...If I could get a couple of bright young lawyers, I'd drive them crazy with suits. One for the shirt picture would be one, bracketed with one vs the FBI for the original of their Exhibit 60 if they refused to give it. You will note that, as is my practise, I added a new one to the Mitchell letter....There is another very dramatic, very topical way we could immediately expand the Act if there were time. I outlined it to Bud today and he lit up. But he cannot now undertake it. And it is one I'd better not try on my own. Not related to JFK....But we can't do everything, so we do what we can and stay alert to what may become possible.

Mailed tape this a.m.

Best