

1/21/70

Dear Gary,

Having completed (I hope) the additions to ch. 18 COUP II, with about seven pages double-spaced for Lil to type, and the rest taped up to that point, I'm monitoring WBBM to see if they will add anything that should be in on the Panther coroner's inquest, so I've time to write. It looks like the text of both parts will run # 524 pages. I think I've cut the appendix to about 85. Big book.

There is little new. I've not been feeling as well as I had been and I'm not certain what, if I can know, to attribute it to. Probably a combination of things. I wish it were possible for you to spend your spring vacation (have one?) here, for this and many other reasons.

I've not mailed this envelope because the weather, for here, has been very rough and has given me problems that are not really problems in your area. The battery is in its sixth year and sometimes I have trouble starting the car. The wind gets bad every time it snows (and the first snow is still with us) and the lane drifts shut, which means more diggin' that may be safe for me unless I spell myself. When you do not spend a winter where the temperature is about zero with cutting winds from 25mph up, as it was here today, it can be difficult. After getting Lil to work with no difficulty, I decided to stop off and visit a widow friend who I thought could probably stand to get her walk and porch cleared. I did it, went home, backed in the lane (there has been not less than two feet in the turnaround for a month), and, before I knew it, was fast in a small drift that did not show in the white tornado we were having. With the banks of the lane steep with the ice remaining of what I'd dug out previously, it was impossible to dig all the snow from under the car. Fast as I dug it drifted, with the car to cause more drifting. Didn't get it out until 4 p.m., when I finally stopped a truck and two fellows pushed me the few feet it took to get the body and undercarriage off the snow on which it rested. Then I shoveled that out of the lane. Not the most productive way to spend a day. Probably I'll mail this tomorrow p.m. when I pick Lil up, unless it is not too cold in the a.m. and I decide to go to the p.o., which I may do.

Bud was to have called me after getting back to town yesterday but he hasn't. Nothing from any of the letters of which you have copies, including Arch. I've got a hell of a job making up a list of unanswered requests, but I'll have to do it prior to the second suit.

I didn't want to attract more attention to that Curry picture in writing Mary, but I am persuaded that is not an error, on the basis that I cannot find any other picture of the fragment and there has to be one, the positive testimony about getting too much out of the wrist and a few other things. When and as I can I'll be keeping after that more than I have been.

There are probably a few minor things I've got noted to do to COUP. The one major thing is what you wrote me about a long time ago on the home bit. That will be tough, but I've got to address it. It has to fit the space exactly when I'm finished with it. I presume you've not had time to try it for me because you've sent nothing. In fact, your rather long silence suggest you are still ill, still busier than usual, or both.

I've been reading Bishop's book. Unbelievable! He stole with so little discrimination he stole Manchester's more obvious mistakes, like "Brend". There are several things that, if not wrong, may be interesting. How sickening it is that such over-written trash finds ready and profitable market...No word from N.O., either. I'd hoped for the transcripts by now. Best wishes,