

1/18/70

Dear Gary,

Before getting back to work, after taking Lil to her job, there is something I want you to know but to go no further. It is that NBC is making a deal with James Earl Ray, with the approval of his lawyers, who will get the \$10,000 (\$500 per minute for every minute over 15) that is the current price. The idea seems to be the lawyers', who have learned that CBS does not pay for such things and consider ABC too small. Do not have to tell you what NBC means - or who it means - and what the possible effects can be? Added to the utter incompetence of the current legal work, it can be the living end.

You can guess my source, who called me reverse yesterday (another \$16.00 I do not have). I have told Bud, hoping it will encourage his filing of this particular suit, for which I have long been ready. He is leaving town today, to return Tuesday, after which we will get together.

All of this adds to my numerous anxieties, which have a synergistic effect on the anxiety condition, I fear. Until the Nichols business, I feel that gradually, very slowly, it was easing. At least, the manifestations were. Now I stay edgy. And what really galls is the complete refusal of all the many in a position to help to do anything meaningful. It may be unjust, and I have no proof, but I do feel that Mark has resented Gregory. Mark's Chicago testimony seems to have been hurtful to his "friends". The feeling of impotence is oppressive and tends to foster a feeling of futility.

As you realize, this is no problem in doing what I feel I must, for the volume of what I've sent you should reflect my continuing pace. But I feel it is, again gradually, becoming hurtful to me personally. If only one good thing could happen, I believe it would be better than nepotism by far.

Mary's theory did not help, and I did take her at her word and tear it apart as gently as I could without doing the whole thing over.

Nor does John's letter, which merely makes unquestioned that he knew what he was doing. How kind of him to offer me the evidence introduced into court, which is only a visualization of my own work. I cannot be certain I handled this the right way, but I hope so.

I do not know what has reached you from Calif., and I do know you are busier as a result of your illness. If I may make a suggestion about the sequence in which you read, if you have it, take the last first. Begin with Chapter 18, for I hope that today I'll begin adding to it what I have for it. Typing for Lil is a major problem, when she works daily plus one night a week and has dental appointments for three more Saturdays, entailing two hours on the road. The book proper is pretty well frozen. I can make changes, with work mostly by me, like replacing Negro from the part a year and a half old with black, as I asked you to note for me. But because you may find more serious flaws in Chapter 18, which will be largely redone in a way that I can paste up, I am anxious to have them before it freezes. Mary's letter reflects that the Penabaz stuff went to Paul, but if worst comes to worst and there is what I cannot now anticipate, the possibility of publication, I'll just use the poor copies I have in the appendix. I'd much rather use the Archives originals, and it is a waste of money for Paul to copy them, for he will get them in the appendix. (I've forgotten the pages but may take time to look it up and tell him.)

The silence of my black agent is not comforting, either. Yet I feel COUP is now a highly significant document with immediate, urgent importance. I

feel, whether or not it is warranted, that had it appeared, in no matter how limited a distribution, it might have had some immediate influence, might, perhaps, have prevented the Chicago murders.

As I look at things, with the fallibility of men, things are moving much faster than shows on the surface. For all their snide cracks, the media have bowed completely to the Agnew edict. Yesterday I got an "answer" to my letter to Stanton, a flunky telling me perhaps I'd like the entire text of Stanton's speech. And this is the brave one, the one who "talked back". The investigation of the Chicago murders is exactly what Ch. 18 indicates, an investigation of the victims, not the guilty. What else could it be?

If you are interested, I have the names of two more of the raiding party, both from this morning's CBS-TV news. Joe Gorman and James Davis. I supposed if this show is aired where you are it is on before you get up, beginning at 6. It is, I think, the day's best news show. The FBI series, ended today, has been, on balance, very good, esp. for CBS.

Reception was poor on WBBM last night. However, I think I heard the report that Vince was a witness for Delinger, which I would expect he'd want to be, but I wonder how he could give legally-relevant testimony, not having been in Chi. Perhaps his bore on intent and got in that way...I've never seen Mark's Chicago book. If you ever see a copy, I'd appreciate it....This a.m. I sent Paul clear copies of both PMs, so if you lack copies of them, tell him and save him the extra work. It will also reduce postage slightly and the time it takes to make packages. ...I have decided to sell xerox copies where I think it may be safe, out financial condition is that poor. We'll soon have a little relief, when Lil starts getting a check. While it is not much, it is so much better than nothing! Right now I am almost out of 3M paper and cannot think of buying any. I had to use light@exposed paper to copy John's letter...I wrote Stewart Mott to see if he'd help. Several others were supposed to speak to him, but none did. I not only hate to do this kind of thing, but I hate to take the time for it. Someone was supposed to have spoken to Helen Lamont (I knew her when she was Helen Lamb), but in four months that has not happened....Yet there is no doubt in my mind that this work can be a source of revenue to blacks - the first of whom has yet to respond, and I've written many letters. (Vince has not sent me Revel's address.)

Well, until mail time I'd better catch up on some filing. Hope your recovery is complete.

Sincerely,