

7/10/ 71

Dear Gary,

Your first letter written after your return, about two days ago, reached me this a.m. in a rather heavy mail. I had skimmed it when a reporter came with his family and spent the rest of the day here, with his family. As soon as 'til finishes typing a letter I want to reach a judge on Monday, I'll be leaving for town to make the mailing and will include this and what I'd put aside pending hearing from you that you are back.

One thing is of immediate concern, several can wait. Today's development, the admission by the LA DA that the Sirhan evidence may have been tampered with, exactly coincides with what I've been sitting on since before Blehr. I may want to get in touch with LIFE on this. If they go for it, it can be very important. I would like at that time to make the most elliptical reference, without any indication of knowledge or source, to their Z efforts. They trusted me to see what they refused to show Bud, and I then told the secretary if they ever make this decision, to get in touch. I do not share your confidence in Fred, his judgement, his understanding of the film or what is even more important, his knowledge of the relevant fact. Once again some farout stuff may blow a real opportunity against which the odds are already heavy.

By itself the picture has no use not already made of it. LIFE has a history with it that you and Fred and others do not and cannot know. JP may have given you an inkling. It has meaning and value only in a proper context. If I am not yet ready to believe LIFE will face that, I also know that almost nobody knows it of his own work, least of all Fred.

Maybe I decide not to write, other things that keep me too busy may prevent it, or I may, in which event I plan it as a seemingly minor p.s. and will send you a copy. I will disclose no sources if I do, no knowledge.

To the rest I'll respond soon, maybe even tonight. It is tragic that this LA story broke on a weekend, when the wrong editors are on the right desks. I have what is most relevant to this admission, but a second-stringer who doesn't even plan to use the wire story is on the Post's national desk! He knows better, even if the DA admits it, it can't be true. Fact has been ordained and he has learned well.

I did know generally that Ned would be seeing Weinreb. They were to have talked 5/6. Ned phoned me. I suggested he speak to Sil, who had had personal dealings with Weinreb. I made a few suggestions, offered a few cautions. I haven't heard from Ned since.

Glad you had fun. Best,