

Dear Henry, via Ruth and Ernie,

8/19/76

of whom we now see so little!

Not only do I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending me the copy of the Pat Jackson letter to John Lewis about me - the timing is a source of amusement. The Department of Justice has just questioned my competence. And what Jackson's memo does not say is that in those days DJ also used me, once for four months in the field in what was then a major case you may have come across, U.S. v Mary Helen et al.

Much of what Jackson says was until now unknown to me, about my being fired. He did not realize and probably never knew the real reason, which is not what he suggests. I had no secrets. The committee had none. And in those days Jackson was staying drunk, doing what I compelled him to do sometimes, generally what I persuaded him to do. My real crime was with Pat lobbying through an extension of the committee's life so it could investigate the corporate-farm/migratory worker ("Grapes of Wrath") situation in California. Bob LaFollette, Jr. was not his father's son. Worst person for whom I ever worked, a sick-in-the-head opportunist.

But I never gave anything not public domain to anybody and it was my job to make it available to all, not just reporters.

Because at some time someone is going to tape an oral history of that period I do not want to let my mind go back and have a chance to circulate later. However, I had forgotten about doing things for the unions. I can now recall others. Many others.

I never knew of the friendship between Jackson and Allen. I also learned from Allen, who was a much older man with a corporation background.

Jackson was right to speak of me as tending toward black and whites but I think it really refers to a refusal to compromise on questions of right and wrong. Capital Hill was and is no place for that!

The trouble to which he refers, it may interest you to know, was of his beginning. Drew Pearson was used to feed to him a man I later proved was an agent of the Un-Americans. He set us up for Dies but I did suspect it and what Jackson did not dare tell Lewis is that I not only cautioned Jackson about a probable forgery but before doing this learned of a dependable handwriting expert from a DJ friend. This recommendation was probably written prior to the end of that case because toward the end I had to fight Jackson, too, to keep me from being jailed through this frame-up really aimed at labor through him. My only help was from Ed. Without her the end might have been different. I was able to take the grand jury away from the U.S. Attorney and force the indictment of this flink while eliminating the possibility of an indictment against Jackson and me. Historian, you may be interested to know that the law Weisner cited in throwing Colson out of his office is the one passed to "get" Jackson and me.

I'm surprised Jackson did not remember and you did not find another memo. When Lewis, prior to 1940, was looking for a UMW general counsel and there had been this Harlan County prosecution and I was living with the government lawyers on it, through Jackson he asked my recommendation. I went over all the lawyers there, including the man who was later father of the Atomic Energy Act, favor a conservative Tamm, Wally K. Hopkins, and Lewis followed my advice.

Surprising what a kid could do in an age of ferment.

Jackson is also right in referring to careerists. These were the ones who were eased in and gradually took over. For a long time I frustrated their efforts to purge the staff of the decent, dedicated, principled people. It was easy. I was a bittleneck. I'd just quit every time they were about to fire a goodguy. Until I got all the important part of the record out they could not do without me. One of those who was always in on taking me out to think they were getting me drunk to talk me into going back to work was later head of the Truman Library, Dave Lloyd. Not a careerist but weak and used by them.

If you see any more, thanks. Best regards,