

4/27/70

Dear Ed,

Your letter of the 23rd and return of photocopy of returned letter from WOTL arrived today. I was in Washington and where I went was not able to locate ~~smnorette~~ machine among those I know, where I'd dare even listen to tapes with anything confidential on them. There is no local dealer. However, I'll canvass our few office-supply houses and may find one I can rent.

The CJR article on the possibility of police indictments over Black Panther killings seems to have been Skolnick's immediate inspiration, though he had earlier interest. In tracing backward, once I had this story as reprinted West Coast Communist paper, I found all times coinciding perfectly. His added ploy, it seems, may be to be able to take all or some credit for any indictment of Groth. It was not until 3/12 that he phoned Trunzo, on what is now, clearly, a spurious basis, to get the documents... There may remain a few gaps I'd like to fill in, and if he has any inspiration other than the obvious, there certainly are, but I think I have it all pretty well reconstructed and thoroughly documented.

As I suspected, Madigan will go for neither this nor me. A friend is going to approach Bob Kennedy, who sired me once by phone when he was in Boston. ...I have even found the explanation for Skolnick's cutting off part of one of the FBI reports.

Objectivity to a reporter is something like beauty to the eye. I wrote Weintraub and he has been silent. Here he, as I see objectivity, really so, he'd have been in touch in some way, if only to do a nasty putdown.

...Hope your potential mine is a mother lode.

At the moment I'll make no further effort to get in touch with WOTL for the letter I insisted the P.O. deliver, to the manager, has not been returned. And there is only so much time I can devote to this. It has already seriously reduced the time I can spend on constructive work, important as it is.

One of the dismaying things is the total failure of any element of the press to make the most rudimentary check of Skolnick's claims. Outside the documents, none of it is credible. Example: Klein's is a local company. If no reporter owned a copy of the Warren Report, if his library didn't have it and he wouldn't go to the public library, all he had to do was phone Klein's. Here he'd have learned the exact opposite of Skolnick's fiction.

Once again, sincere thanks.