

Dear Dave (and),

1/17/77

Every once in a while I make notes for planned writing in the form of a letter to someone I think may find some of it interesting. You being the professional histerian among is I was thinking of a note for Tiger when Jim called. He told me about your weather, which made the 2e below here seem mild. That you have to heat the fuel oil so it will flow is new to me but it fits with what I had in mind for the note.

I told Jim in comment on the day, what I'd been thinking, that the Peanut get inaugurated unofficially. Perhaps initiated is better.

The day was marked by Washington's buses going out ~~without~~ of service with frozen air lines. That immediately reminded me of Munchausen's tale about it getting so cold the words froze...

This is what happened in and to the Carter camp. Their words froze. But unlike the Munchausen fable they will not that out and make the clammer that is needed.

No campaign against racist cabinet nominees, only against a probable referend who has a long record of red associations, like JFK and pacifism. (Did you ever know that I fought and beat compulsory ROTC in the early 30s? Cost me my degree but I did win. These kids did not invent everything. They just made it more popular. When I went to college the girls used the Berkeley words.)

I imagine this is really a Baker job. I did not follow it and have ~~not~~ not taken time to read the Post's stories, although I will tomorrow's. It is the kind of day on which they can be holy. Safe now.

There are a couple of well-placed and wealthy supposed liberals who could have made something about Baker possible. I've had it for years. But I've reached the point where other have to help on some things and if they don't help, well there is much I'll never be able to do anyway. I've had that written since the summer of 1974. If I set myself to it I could undoubtedly add to it. I won't.

The Democrats have forgotten how to fight political fights. Or lack the guts.

This was a fight they could have won and have had side benefits from winning. Not having fought and having lost they will suffer more and the ~~more~~ reactionaries have the taste of blood.

Somehow when the GOPs do it they are not being personal. But if the Democrats do anything they are engaging in personal sneers.

It is simply incredible that they could have thought they could nominate a JFK man and not have this kind of trouble. More when he did decent things, like oppose killing (I mean, how subversive can you get?) and tell the truth. Truth is the most grievous of political sins. If that ever get popular in Washington...

With the Ellsberg affidavit they did not have to expect a fight?

How they could have fought back, beginning with Ford on precisely the same issue, only with perjury added.

Now I read Kennedy. Of course the world did not come apart when it appeared, there was no nuclear war, so national security was not damaged. But there are no real secrets in it except what was not secret and Sorenson didn't under. This should not be held against him because Schlesinger, the professional and Pulitzer histerian understood even less of what he wrote.

Sorenson had clearance to use what he did and it was not really secret anyway and he told the truth. Ford stole and swore falsely when it was material so he is good and Sorenson is bad.

This may be the clue to what lies ahead.

The real terror ever Sorenson is terror of reform, house-cleaning in the speakery. He worked for the guy who said he'd do it. Wrote the speeches. Worse, they were beautiful speeches. They even inspired people, which has become pretty criminal.

Judging from what he let happen to himself he'd probably have been ineffectual. That he could have been in the JFK White House and not have expected something like this is hard to believe.

If paly one of these guys who gets axed and is well situated would ever fight, I mean after he gets cut up, much good could result. I don't think this one will.

NBC's Chancellor and Brinkley cleaned it up nicely. They did not use McGovern's charge of McCarthyism. But they did manage to show Baker as agonizing over the nation's need which, naturally, is what it has always been and can't be changed even superficially.

Baker was particularly vulnerable, if my recollection is correct, when anyone went after Serensen on the tax writeoff. His father-in-law aside from being an accomplished crrek did exactly the same thing with his paper. He was Ev Dirksen. Everybody upt to and including Nixon did it.

And all these guys who wrote books and got paid for them. Pre-CIA books, of course. Dulles, Miles Copeland, Kirkpatrick, Hillman and so many more. And all the secrets given for other books, like Barron's KGB.

But not one Democrat prepared to fight. And so damned few to make nice if meaningless speeches.

If it wasn't for the Republicans they'd not elect nobody.

The fear he was anti-military and anti-dirty tricks would have been enough. But I have a feel they are still cutting up the ghost of JFK.

It is not as cold here as it is there and I don't want it to be. But it is cold enough here for the field mice to be making their dens in the snow. They can't get anyplace else anyway. Frozen out until the snow lets them find their old dens.

Best,