

3/10/70

Dear Russ,

Went to DC early this a.m., picking mail up at P.O. en route. Read your letter of the 6th and the clip on Skolnick then (I've just heard from Ed Belmer, who tells me S has his class working on the assassination, JFK). I arranged for an 11 a.m. press conference at which I'll announce having filed suit against Justice and State on the suppressed (confiscated and suppressed) Ray evidence. This I will do at 9 a.m. East and the Ray Brown thing have been much on my mind...I'll have to delay reading the enclosures, for I'm tired and have to get up early...I've been trying to get WBBM all night and can get only Cuba. They are the only news station with an audible signal here this time of night...I have friends who knew Weatherstone. They believe it extremely unlikely he had any connection with explosives...I know of some excellent candidates if someone were to investigate. That is a very strong area for NSRP and the Klan is virulent there.

Sorry about the job. But it makes it easier for you to get ~~xxxx~~ here when you have transportation. On the story, I have a general reluctance to give anything to the underground press because of a number of reasons, one of which is that they reach only the persuaded. I've been thinking of a much broader story since Agnew, who puts all of this in a newer and better context. I cannot be sure it can be sold, but I've been toying with the idea of writing it. When you are here I'll tell you the other things I have for it. I think it is much better than restricting to CIA when the FBI is so available. And pertinent. And not a lone.

Worrying about who could be an agent is intellectual and operational and emotional self-castration. I doubt if anything is to be gained by correspondence with S at this point, though I would to help aim. I am not encouraged to alter this opinion if he has been in touch with Dick and Mark. The half you do not know I'll tell you when you're here. ..And I'll lend you COUP II when you're here. That'll save insuring cost, wrapping time...You local things sound good, like progress... Meacham is not the only strange one...Flo probably didn't like my last letter...

Lita should not worry about chickens being hauled in open crates. If they are going to be hauled, that's the best way for them. It does look awful, but aside from what life shows of them, the manner is not as cruel as it seems, is the opposite in hot weather, and the real inhumanity is when they are overcrowded. The cold does not really hurt them. Nature prepared them for that. I can tell her about that, too, if she'd like. They do not react like people. And there are few alternatives. They could not take a closed van. That would kill them.

Never heard from your ACLU gal.

I'll now glance at the enclosures and then go to bed. Thanks. Our best to you both. Hope you can get here soon.

March 6, 1970

Dear Harold,

So much has happened since I last wrote to you, I hardly know where to start. This is the first weekend we've been home -- three weeks ago we were in Chicago, two weeks ago it was Cleveland, and last weekend we were in New York City. Upon our return from Chicago I was fired from my job at Maynard Research. It's not entirely clear why I was fired, it's pretty clear that it was political, but many things happened that could've contributed to it, and it's ~~ick~~ difficult to pinpoint which one was the cause. Since there ~~isn't~~ I've been spending all my time working on RISC -- found out that I could collect \$70 a week unemployment for the next 26 weeks, so why not? Also, the Maynards were kind enough to give me a week's severance pay, so although we haven't yet received any of the unemployment checks we've managed quite well.

While in Chicago we talked to Skolnik, who I mentioned to you, for about five hours. In many ways he is the same as what you say about Penn Jones -- according to Skolnik almost everybody could be an agent. However, I suppose most anybody could be an agent, so what Skolnik says seems to make some sense. I've enclosed some of the material that he gave me (very little), and you can look it over. Apparently my friend was wrong about the reference in the book, but the book (Who's who) does indirectly relate to Skolnik's concept of Rennie, although I've forgotten how. Skolnik says that he was working with Hampton on developing the thing when Hampton was murdered -- he says that the Panthers in Chicago still have all the material that he and Hampton developed and that they will make it public sometime in the future "In their own time." It's all very far out-- but Rennie is the type of person that one could easily wonder about when they were personally associated with him as I was. Another thing is that many people in Chicago whose judgement I trust are still friendly with Skolnik even though many people have "offed" him because he's made this charge publically.

Skolnik teaches at Columbia College now -- that's the school that's upstairs of where my office used to be -- and he and an old friend of mine, Bert Gall, are planning to set up an assassination research project there, if you have the time you might write to them and ~~it~~ see what they might be able to do for you, if anything. I told~~x~~ them you might be in touch with them -- Skolnik address is 9800 South Oglesby, Chicago. Skolnik has also been in direct contact with Gregory and Mark Lane -- I'd be curious to know what Gregory thinks of his theory.

On the Xeroxing of Coup -- I think we'll be able to do a large ~~k~~ number of copies (that is, between five and ten) because the guy who would do them for us apparently has full run of the place, so as soon as you can send the part that ~~isn't~~ I don't have we'll get them run off and you'll have a few extras.

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RISC is pretty well entrenched as a Pittsburgh group now -- all we need is a place to set up. We've gotten quite a bit of publicity around here -- I'll send you copies of some of it in the next letter if I don't put them in this one. Today we taped a one hour radio show for a local FM station and it appears as though we'll have a show on that station at least once a month and that we can run it between an hour and two hours, as long as we feel is necessary. I don't know if I mentioned it before, but we now want to get a storefront headquarters, and we're having a bit of difficulty locating a store in the right price range and the right neighborhood that will rent to us.

As you mentioned once -- the poorer you are the more you buy things that you couldn't afford when you had money. We're now looking for an old beat up car to purchase around here, and when we find one we'll probably take a drive down to visit you. Not necessarily in the old beat up car -- we could probably lend it to someone with a better car for long distances. Now that the weather's nice and I'm not working it'd be a nice drive.

You asked about the last King speech -- I too want a copy of it, and expect that this week or next I'll be able to get one. So you should have a copy from me within two weeks.

I will write to my friend Bert Gall for that series on the jurors -- you're right, it is something that we should have in our files here, and I'll have him pick up extra copies for you.

~~Steve~~ Stewart Meacham is really strange -- he has answered none of my letters, even though some of them have been downright insulting in demanding a reply; I've even written insulting things about him to other people knowing they would get back to him -- still no answer. I fear he's one of these people who gives great lip service to how concerned he is, but he's too wrapped up in his own little world to genuinely understand what's happening outside it.

I've gotten some more details on tampering with the mails, and will be writing a newspaper article on it that'll be published here next week, I think -- I'll send you a copy of it.

Didn't get to see Flo when we were in New York -- imagine, she was in Pittsburgh while we were in New York.

What happened with the Washington guy who was going to break a story on Radio TV Report and the CIA? I've kind of decided that since the government will pay me \$70 a week for the next six months I'm going to do everything I can in that six months to find a means of making a living through writing or organizing or whatever, so I'm really going for broke. If he's dropped the idea I have a paper here that could do it and then put in on the LNS sheet. You have much of the material because I didn't have extra copies

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of a lot of it; so any publicizing of it by me would have to wait until we visited you and I could see what I was missing.

I guess that's all for now.

from Lita: ~~How~~ Do you know that truckers haul chickens in wide open crates on flat-bed trailers in the dead of winter when it's freezing cold out? Isn't that cruel and inhuman?

Love to Lil from both of us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Duss".