

3/11/70, early a.m.

Dear Buss,

A few thoughts before preparing to leave for DC. More beliefs, I guess.

We are in an era where long-range good is not likely to be accomplished by one-shots without real and comprehensible significance if standing alone.

What I would regard as very worth incorporating in a book in which it fits (examples, Bolden, Valle), I would not regard as either worth the effort, as compared with other uses of that effort, or even on the plus side, by itself. With Bolden we do not really know enough and there is the possibility of backfire. On the other hand, on an entirely different reason, with Valle there is more than can be developed, and it has enough ultimate added value to warrant holding back unless there were to be a major use of it. Other things I'll tell you when you are here. I have asked questions to which I may get answers.

Agents and those who see agents: in my limited experience, paranoia can explain much of this. I never believed Exrney an agent, for example, nor do I believe Turner is, nor, as some hint, Garrison. Those making the accusation against B and T, by their own actions, qualify as suspects. I do not for one minute believe they are, but I do believe they are paranoia. Penn is part that, part frustration, part subconscious mortification at making no real discoveries when he is the only one on the spot. Basically he is a fine guy. After his unannounced attacks on me, and he didn't check with me first, I went out of my way to help him and may have stoided a very legitimate action against him. It would cost him to defend it, he'd lose it, and that would help no one-not even the guy who'd love won it.

The most likely agents are provocateurs, not spies. Espionage can be accomplished in other, less hazardous ways, as your own experience should tell you. Without doubt there are these. Exception is with the militant blacks, where they'd have both.

What Skolnick misses is his accusation against Davis and Hoffman, if it seems logical, is both logic and reason. First of all, if his is a just suspicion, it is better aimed at the lawyers, not the clients, for the lawyers filed and controlled and argued the suit, not the non-lawyer clients. Second of all, the punishment to which they subjected themselves is enough to eliminate serious consideration of agency, which can be put aside only if they do not serve their terms. So, I do have concern about his judgement and whether or not he also is touched by the paranoia that is all too common.

Little more time. We all make judgement errors. I made a very bad one last night. Before leaving my lawyer's office, I asked his opinion, not being certain whether I should stop off at NBC news on the way home and tell them of the suit to be filed today. I am only too aware of Sheridan's influence and their record. He said he thought it best not to, so I didn't, and I sat and waited 40 minutes for Lil, so I also had the free time. Well, on the evening news I heard the strong blast against the government on just this issue by Julian Goodman, pres NBC news (who has been a decently-disposed fink in the past). I'll try and get there early enough this a.m., but may find no one on the job. It now turn out I should have run the risk. We all make errors in judgement and often for somewhat paranoid reasons.

Best,

Good to talk to you last night