

4/16/69

Dear Russ,

Take it easy as you recover. There seem to be respiratory viruses around that do not make you very sick but leave you forever weak. Don't catch one now.

If everything goes as it should, a copy of COUP D'ETAT should be in the mail to you tonight. It has been unspapled for microfilming. I asked that it remain that way so you will have less trouble Xeroxing. If stapling something this thick is a problem for you, return it as is and I'll get it done here. Please insure it for \$40.00, the cost of that much Xeroxing here, and be certain to pack it well with cardboard.

I'd prefer no public use of the contents. I leave it up to you who sees it. If you can make only one copy and want to keep that for yourself and to lend to such people as Bevel, okay. But if the girl is going to make more than one copy (and as you can see, I can use additional copies), I urge that she decide this in advance and save the extra handling, even if it means she cannot complete it in a single operation.

Various interruptions and other needs have kept me from returning to the addition. I have significant new material for it. Hope to get on that soon. Instead of a single chapter or an epilogue, I'll add another part to it, with several chapters.

Check on Hester and Corley.

Have you tried Grove on your novel? They are strange people, but they can do a good job if they want to.

Your method is different than mine. I'd have written the State draft director's letter saying he had not answered the questions but had given an editorial judgement, and then I'd have repeated the pointed questions. But you are getting the time you need.

Can the NBC boys now check that 1963 or 1964 license? If there is still an FBI "freeze" on it, that in itself would be interesting. Increasingly the government invokes a provision of the freedom of information act permitting current investigations to be secret. They do not mean it, but they do say it.

So, you'll catch up on your readings. I've finished "Malcolm X Speaks". To a degree it authenticates your opinion, but in these selections he does not address the basic points I raised, as about women. And he is less than totally honest in self-quotation, as on preaching hatred of whites as such, which he did.

Take care,

4-12-69

Dear Harold,

Your letter of 3/24 arrived promptly, but the letter of 4/5 took five days to get here & arrived on the 10th. I haven't been able to write to you because I was pretty sick. Spent a week in the hospital with pneumonia. I'm now convalescing at home -- can't go back to work for another 10 days.

The report on the FBI visit to Hester is very interesting. You recall that Corley thought the mention of the license # in connection with Oswald was the FBI telescoping two things -- so now here we have the FBI attributing that link to Hester, which Corley indicated was not and could not have been true. In what Corley said it's unclear whether the FBI visited Larkin (who I had mistakenly identified as Hester's father) but if you look at the report I sent you on that it certainly appears as if the FBI must have talked to him at some point, because he told Hester to expect a visit from them. I'm going to mail another copy of this report to Corley and see what his reaction is.

On the copying capacity of my friend here: she works for a stockbroker. She starts work about eight in the morning, and says that there's no one there to check what's being done on the copiers until about 10, so for those two hours she can do whatever she wants. She said 200 pages would be no problem for her to make one or two copies of in a day, and perhaps if she had two days she'd be able to make more copies. Of course, as with your man who's making the copies for you, all these things hinge on the dependability of the particular person that particular day or week, but I think this girl would be fairly dependable.

I got another good rejection on my novel. Simon & Schuster said it was interesting, timely, etc. but they couldn't publish it. They suggested I try getting it out in paperback quickly. This after they kept the mss nearly two months.

The draft situation gets more interesting all the time. The local board did not deny the use of "outside information," but of course they didn't confirm it either. So I wrote the state director, asking him to pull the file and examine both the contents of the file and the outside information and make the outside information available to me to reopen the case. Well, he wrote back and said he had examined the entire contents of the file & I hadn't been denied any of my rights -- cleverly avoiding even acknowledging the existence of the outside information. So now I've written General Hershey asking him to do the same thing. While he's doing that they can't issue an induction order. If Hershey doesn't give me any satisfaction, then I'll go to the Justice Department.

That's about all for now. As soon as I get moving around again I'll get together with the probation officer who was assigned to Vallee, maybe we'll get something good from him.

Russ