

2/29/68

Dear Hal,

Thanks for the Kessler stuff that I'll give Mu when he gets here. The present delay is his mother's imminent gall-bladder operation. He wanted to wait until that is over. Thanks also for the Human Events version of the Scott story. Interesting how no two of the same story are identical. I'll read it again, carefully, soon. It is obviously planted as it is obviously wrong, possibly libellous....I am looking forward to hearing from you.

There has been nothing in the papers here about Hall's trip to New Orleans. Steve Jaffe apparently held a press conference for him. Together, they managed to avoid crediting me with arranging it. What a switch! The man goes to court to avoid responding to a subpoena, which protects him, he is so anxious not to go. I interview him and he asks me to go with him. When I cannot I suggest Steve Burton and he agrees. Garrison knew nothing about it until last Wednesday night when I phoned and told him. If Howard can establish that he was not at Odio's, which would not surprise me, he also had interesting information, some of which I have. And confirmation of what I learned from others.

Sparrow was on Today, as the enclosed letter says, if you hadn't already heard. There was once a time when I thought it expedient to be gentle with these flinks. That failed. I doubt if severity will accomplish more, but I'll bet next time somebody thinks a little longer. And it does leave a record, and it may be interesting if there is ever a legal proceeding. I haven't been able to locate a copy of the book or anyone in publishing (through NY channels) who knows anything about it, a rather unusual thing, a major promotion for an unavailable book. That is uncommercial as the rest of it. If the book is a big success, there is only a slight possibility of its paying the promotional costs if the campaign begins by the man coming all the way across the ocean to launch it before it can be bought. The book and his appearance is for other reasons. As with Roberts, the thing is not the sale but the promotion the book justifies, serves as a vehicle for. If it starts to get any attention out there, please try and get the friendly media people to phone me, either to answer, challenge, or prime. And the people who know the story can be told what to ask him that he'll have trouble answering. Of course, he is a smoothie who doesn't answer, who just talks, pretending it is an answer.

Sincerely,

P.S. Nudge John about the Howard bit. It is a good column item, at the very least. If he tries he can do something. I think Caen would use it.