

4/23/71

Dear Hal,

I was so glad to hear from you that I read your letter at the post office yesterday morning, delaying my start for Washington to do so. And its tone is comforting. You sound like yourself.

This has been a busted up morning, so I reply in haste, before stopping for lunch, so that afterward I can resume with what requires concentration (no slur intended). My typing may be worse than usual, for I have trifocals now, and for less than 24 hours. And I had written your address down incorrectly. I've corrected it.

Matter of fact, while I had suspected your girl-friend involvement was part of the reason for your silence, I had also suspected much more. And the general nature of our correspondence is such that I didn't want to write you where I knew there had to be an existing cover on the mail to that address.

Unsolicitedly, I offer the opinion that it is good you were not able to move to Europe. You are past the age where attachment to a rolling stone is requited love. Looking back on what now seems like so many years, on so many lives, I hope you can wait until the stone stops rolling. And until the glare make it possible for you to examine the whole thing in a more detached way. Because you are involved as you are this will never be easy. I think as time goes on you will be asking yourself questions you have not addressed. Thus I think time is important.

Jim, who has been so out of character, has puzzled me as he has disappointed. With the problems I have with my publishers, the failure of those I have always regarded as friends and still do weigh heavily and disappoints deeply. I'm glad to know about his producers, for a man messed up out last two by-phone shows by telling me other than Jim planned, so that my efforts to pace, plan and lay a foundation for what I expected to follow wound up being all of it. I wish Jim had spoken to me in advance, as all the others always have, so there'd have been no misunderstanding, for these shows must have been much less than he expected and certainly were considerably less than they could have been....I know Harv is news only, but there may be ways in which he could have helped, as we could have learned only by talking. But my affection for both is undiminished.

I'll be sending you a copy of FRAME-UP, possibly tonight. Your plans sound the usual good. I think Freeman may be more important on this than in the past, for black abdication is without end, to this moment. As you know, I've always had great respect for him and I did enjoy being interviewed by him, not always the case....I stopped to wrap a copy so I can't forget to mail it this evening when I pick kid up. Temporarily she is working one day a week now that tax season is over.

At least for the moment, please hold off on the publishers in what you propose for Clobbersville. If we had to it would be a different thing. Their nonfeasances can be stupidity and/or incompetence, and both they are. Besides, if we come out fighting everybody, we lose credibility. No major, national talk show, all of which have aired the official fiction, will accept me and this side. I hope, especially if I can get a lawyer interested, in going to the FCC about this, but again, this is still premature.

Run out of time. Many thanks. But as of now, although it was understood that I'd be sent across the country, there is no commitment and please, to begin with line up what I can do by phone and then give me an estimate of what can be done live, so I can lean on them again. It ought not then be SF alone, and as of now it would be. There is Chicago, LA and other places, and nothing has been done anywhere. Good luck & Thanks,

753 $\frac{1}{2}$  WARFIELD AVE.  
OAKLAND, CALIF.  
94610

7-18-71

Dear Hal,

It was real good to hear from you again - this time directly to my new address. Before I begin to tell you about what's been happening with me - first, let me point out to you that the address you had typed on the envelope to me was incorrectly typed as = 735 $\frac{1}{2}$  Warfield Ave. It should be = 753 $\frac{1}{2}$  Warfield (zip code is 94610). I don't know if the Whites gave you the wrong address or whether you inadvertently typed it wrong but make sure you correct it. The letter took 7 days to get here and perhaps the reason was the incorrect address.

I don't have a phone as yet primarily due to the fact that I finally (last week) was still paying off my old phone bill which was really a huge amount mostly due to the phone calls I had placed to my girl friend in Europe.

The letter - as you may have guessed - is really the reason I haven't written or remained practically incognito for a long time. You probably surmised that I was quite involved with my girl friend and when she decided to move to Europe for a while I was really depressed for a long period. That is the main reason I took off on a vacation to Europe and saw her. I thought I could just about get along

without her for a while but I couldn't and so I took off for about a month. It cost me a bit (and I borrowed to cover it) but it was worth it - every bit of it. I was never happier when I finally got there. We made every minute count when we travelled together and the only letdown was after my return here to the U.S. But what complicated the matter further was that while I was in Europe I was laid off from my job. I didn't know it and ironically sent a telegram to the office where I worked telling them I'd be a day late (and they were trying to contact me!). I wasn't really prepared for that blow even with my awareness of the system we have to all operate under and in fact had figured to recover all my debts by working on my return back. That meant more money to borrow and sinking deeper into debt. If I sound as if I am hollering a bit, Hal - no, I'm not - I'm just trying to tell you as a friend how things have been with me so that you'd understand. I hope the above explains it. I still keep in touch with my girl friend and she even wanted me to come there to live but I had to decide that I wouldn't even though I am in love with her (and I did try to move there). The problem I ran into in trying to move there was to get a job there. I tried to get a job both here in California and overseas. I finally landed one here as you heard from the Whites.

The Whites have helped me too (don't tell them I told you) but they are among the finest persons in the world I have ever met and it makes life worth while to know there are people like them.

I must admit that my decision not to move to Europe is partly based on the whims of my girl friend. She doesn't like her job and writes about moving on and travelling some more. As a realist I know that you can't do this unless you have some money behind you and her plans include so much travelling that Mrs. Onassis, herself, would have to dip into the till to have it occur.

I didn't tell my girl friend that I am not moving to Europe. She still thinks I am trying.

This pretty much tells you about myself up to date.

I will be contacting Jim Eason this week & other talk shows but I rarely listen to them. Jim is far and away the best of them all and has a prime spot from 7 to 10 p.m. every night. He can now be considered the number one man of the talk programs supplanting Ira Blue. (Blue has been sick and hospitalized for months & Jim luckily got his time slot and his standing).

Harv Morgan is strictly a news commentator & probably couldn't help on the securing of programs.

The talk shows have reached their height of popularity, I believe, and are now levelling off. It could be that within a year they'll all be done away with. The ones I have listened to are deadly dull (only Jim does well in keeping the subjects interesting & the speakers on their toes).

No, I don't have a copy of "Frame-Up". I saw it at Doubleday's book store in S.F. where it was in a good spot for readers to browse through. And one thing I can do is make sure every book store puts it in a prominent place & have each library get a copy. (I'll be visiting one tomorrow and I'll see that this is done).

Besides making these radio spots for you (and TV) I'll get to work writing a review of your book and get it published all over the place. (I have a tentative title for one of these reviews. It'll be called: "How to Suppress a Book Without Really Trying" which could be a tally sheet of your day by day run in with the media-book-gov't establishment concerning your book. (I read the Foreman confrontation thing you sent to the Whites & that's what I had in mind).

Another would be the publishers deciding to run only 5,000 copies when they knew that the name of Martin Luther King alone draws enough from a white audience let alone the black. True—blacks have to dig in pretty deep to come up with \$10 but there are such things as black book clubs that can do something. (I'll be contacting one black printer in S.F. this week about your book. He was, in fact, a good friend of King & even knows about King's extra-curricular activities in S.F. He knows the woman involved).

Well, must get to bed. I hope this will tell you a little about what's going on.

I have a lot more to write about and will write you regularly. I definitely have specific ideas in mind about promos, etc. Will let you know.

Give my regards to your wife and tell her she'll be seeing more of my letters coming regularly from now on in.

Best,  
Hal