

4/8/70

Dear Allen,

As you asked, this morning I mailed you a copy of COUP D'ETAT, both parts and appendix. When you return it, please insure it for \$47.50. The mails are scientifically destructive these days.

This is for you only and for no use of any kind. However, I would welcome any suggestions. It will be impractical to make major changes, but small ones are a matter of little time. There are some I will be making, some I have made and have not been able to incorporate, this copy having been xeroxed before the corrections, etc.

There will also be an index-enormous - about 3,000 cards already. It is carded into the last chapter.

Please remember this is the first draft, though it is also the final book, save for small things.

Perhaps, in the future, you may also want to read the two completed parts of the three-part work on the autopsy and what relates. That is not as long. I've researched the third part and have decided to try and keep it short also. That part will also be part of a lawsuit I am about to file. I'm going through the tedium the government calls "exhausting my administrative remedies", multiplied as they are by the Justice people. I'm in the last one now. Unless they make up one higher than the Attorney General.

I have just today learned of the WCFL involvement and I've spoken to two of their newsmen. I also heard from Skolnick, who is, without doubt, one of the sneakiest guys I've ever spoken to. He is so smoothly evasive it seems as though he has practised it thoroughly (when I doubt the possibility), even to accurately anticipating in advance what the other person in the conversation will say. I have met other such people, and in these cases they have sometimes been basically honest men but with enormous egos and exalted concepts of their unique importances, which often serves to justify to them what others consider dishonest. Skolnick was without indignation when I called him a crook, as I did, repeatedly, when he asked my objection. He began with the pretense I claimed he had slandered me, a childish ploy, pretended to be a stranger to the man from whom he got this stuff (but continued to evade when I quoted this man), pretended not to know his own associates and used an assortment of puerile devices which are no credit to him. I was not long getting angry at this kind of approach and this low opinion of my intelligence and I made no effort to hide it. However, I think there are two major considerations about which I must concern myself. This is the most completely incompetent legal action I have ever seen. Its court history can be another disaster for us and can have the most seriously adverse effect on my own suits. And I have no desire to hurt the people at WCFL, who seem like reasonable, decent people and who indicate a willingness to explore the possibility of seeing if something can be done to relieve the damage already inflicted. As you know, I seek no personal publicity and after I cool and have a chance to consider the larger issues, I rarely seek vengeance. At this point I'd like to wait and see if there are any efforts made to undo what has been done, to the degree it can be.

Your copy (and voice) are being aired more often on WTOP, Washington.

Gotta go get my wife.

Best,