

10/6/72

Dear Paul,

When I told you several hours ago that I expected to be home for the rest of the day and night I made the traditional husband's error of not consulting his wife. "I'll want to get groceries. We'll be leaving when I finish this."

That you didn't phone back I take it means you stayed busy.

I had to be in the court house in Rockville today. A young deputy sheriff then told me he knew me. It turns out that he remembers me from a speech I made at the University of Maryland in 1966 or 1967. He remembered even my name. When his wife came in, ditto. She also heard the speech.

He told me that he wished I'd do some investigative reporting there in Rockville, that there were bad things about which nothing could be done or said by those who know of them.

I didn't have time to ask for particulars, so I really don't know what he has in mind.

I told him it was impossible for me, but would ~~back~~ he be willing to talk to a Post reporter if he were protected. He said he would.

It would probably be hurtful to him if he were seen with a reporter if he has anything of substance.

And, I don't know if the Post is interested enough to have someone speak to him.

So, all I can do is offer to make the introduction.

As of now I have a date to be in Rockville this coming Thursday, 10/12, across the street from the courthouse, at 10 a.m. I'll be on time. This meeting should take less than a half hour if it is not interrupted. However, it is with a man who may be interrupted a number of times while we are together, so I can't make an accurate forecast.

Unless I then proceed to Washington, something I do not now anticipate, I will come home after this meeting. I have no other plans for being in Rockville in the immediate future.

If anyone there is interested, let me know and I'll go to Rockville<sup>earlier</sup>, go to the office in which I met this man, and set up a meeting.

One thing of which I learned today probably has nothing to do with what he has in mind, but there would seem to be a fairly large and unnecessary cluttering of the criminal courts by the states attorneys. And the delays in serving papers are incredible. I know of one case, an indictment handed down on the 21st, where the notice wasn't served until last night. The young man indicted came home from work to find his paper taped to his front door. It called for him to appear at 9:30 a.m. for arraignment. As you can see, he had no chance to get counsel. Once he was in the courtroom this morning, deputies came up to him, took him outside, and served a new warrant on him. Unless there is a technicality of which I can have no knowledge, there is no validity to this new indictment. He is now charged 9 or 10 times for one relatively minor crime. The indictment was handed down on the 29th, which means that there was a delay of only a week! And it has his mother's office number written on the back of it. But she wasn't called. This with a kid who to my knowledge has cooperated with the police in this case and others. I took him to them. One of the others also served in court today was in custody continuously from before the commission of the alleged new crime, uttering and forging. When this kind of stuff is what is forced through grand juries, occupies the prosecutors and clutters the courts, you may get impressive and swollen statistics, but legitimate and needed enforcement has to suffer, everybody is burdened needlessly, justice cannot but suffer and with the young already in trouble, it cannot engender respect or any good notions.

Hastily,

I'll be away Wednesday until about 2 p.m. and  
Monday until next about 10 a.m. and again from about  
12:30 until about 2.