

Dear Jim,

4/17/75

Would you like an assassination symposium/convention in Washington?

We can have one. And we can keep the nuts off the program.

My tentative position is that I should be there to be asked questions, as a counsellor, but the kids should have their own and work out their own action program. With invitations to Congresspersons to attend, hear and be heard.

It comes from the euphoria remaining in these great kids after their success at Maryland.

They did this all on a shoestring. Last night they came up to give me the profit. They added \$1 to make it an even \$900.

The kid who did it is real energetic. He has been in touch with or heard from a number of colleges and is going to be in touch with them again. He asked me about June 1 and I said I believe that is too late for the college crowd. He feels otherwise.

It was a worthwhile experience for me because it tells me that even those kids who have been subjected to the terrible ripoffs of the mind from the AIB gang, the underground press and the recent TV spectaculars respond strongly and favorably to the solid, lets-stick-to-fact approach.

It began, by the way, with one young man who remained the center and leader. Others volunteered to join him until at the end there were 25, even a security corps to prevent a ripping off of the Z film and keep hecklers under control. There was no problem with hecklers. I had one who was a godsend.

These kids have the enthusiasm and the interest and I feel that if we have the proper direction such a deal in Washington, not the kind of utter nonsense Bud pulled, can be helpful.

Last night they were talking about Constitution Hall! Just for an appearance by me, separate from this convention notion.

On the one hand, it seems to me that a gathering so close to Congress where all the nutty stuff is debunked can be constructive, as can a demonstration of demand and sincere interest. On the other I'm not sure that at this time we can come forward with an action program that can have meaning and not lead to their frustration. I think it is possible. With all we have to do let us think about this. These kids like me and they are coming back tomorrow, one to work on the index consolidation, and Saturday, several of the young men to do the outside work I could not do because of the time they took, Their idea, not mine.

The girl who is indexing is the daughter of the PG county public defender. He and his wife were in the audience. I asked her what he said. She hadn't seen him but her mother's reflection of it is that the father was much impressed, favorably in every respect. This is to say the prospects with the Establishment, from this small sample, can be good. Against it is the caution of one prof who was not there that those who signed a petition to their own Congresswoman would wind up having job troubles in the future!

Because this is not my ideal I've not had time to really think about it. Do if you think it can be constructive. If we could get active participation from the law students and get the kids to orient around making the law/system work and an investigation of the investigation, for which legislative sanction already exists, and keep the paranoids out, it could be pretty good. I'll invite them back to discuss, so tjink. Best, HW