

6/7/72

Your breezy mailing 6/1 welcome on a day of frustrations and futilities, when at 2:35 p.m. I have wasted all of it without solving what should have been the simple problem with which it began (householding).

Washington Observer: pub semi-monthly except the first of March, June, September and December at 5630 Borrnick, Douth Gate, Ca. 90280 (P.O.Box 1306). My copy the issue Penn used to a correspondent friend. That zip is nut country, and that contents, to me, is nut contents. The trouble is that for all their wealth and sophistication, the Kennedys were their own kind of nuts, so who knows? In summary: I don't believe.

Perezes (NYTimes 4/17.72): don't take Roy Reed's word for the changes in the dynatsy. As L Patrick Gray said, it is in style only, not substance. Chalin and sister still

strong for racist butts, Leabder now Jr jailed Ben Smith for defending a client against him, lost in appeals court. Glad to get. Married sister I think named Gelpi.

Feltrinelli: Everything welcome if nothing makes sense. Had I time I'd have written widow. Rt. wing here has engineered such things as bombing Wilkerson home Greenwich Village. I have their semi-secret boast of it, all but name of their agentz.

Je's 1/71, Computers, Vern Countryman on Hoove/wiretapping: the thing nobody realizes is that the tap can be kept on with nothing fone until it is productive, and then they haave 24 or 48 hours to get permit. If it takes longer, they merely don't use that tapr. But for all practical purposes, there is no limitation On King, Hoover blackjacked Bobby, the ostensible reason being a red -connected in King's entourage. I think he meant Rustin. When they use such words as "national" or "Internal" security, it means anybody at all. Bobby's inquiry was in response to Hoover's urging, which boxed Bobby. I think the then subordinate was Courtney Evans (also CIA).

Wallace omb threat. I recall no news stories here, either, but some radio treatment. It passed over fast and seems to have had some insodration in the conversion of the hospital into a campaign hdq. Dare sare most crank, possibly large % black then. Early. Seemingly all cool now.

Nobody who sees Times has mentioned your 4/26 on the international dentistry of wife. What some people won't do for a buck!

Freep cartoon "Christ! A real Nut. What's the world coming to?" puts it all together. Except that he's not first "real nut". Which reminds: neither word nor check from Nat. Enquirer; and my source of AP putting two men (gogent analysis, jdw) comes from Finley.

Stuart's The Washington Jayoff: Same add as in Post in NYTimes. Means he is spending \$\$\$.

Reminds: Samuel Brisk. longtime Quadangle President Monday at ABA. He seemed less than enraptured at being part of Times now.

Zuckerkanndl picture with Bill Seha's return address. He may have the background for that strange Oolke threat, but I think it requires what he has not show, knowledge DC suburbs. The Japan Ail Libes Bag on car also fits him. He has sued Japaense stuff in past, indicative of having been there. If as I think he lacks a few nuts and bolts, I thin he'd not have been so silent for so long. I still suspect cat named Carlton formerly Lib Cong. now supposed to be Univ Miami. He had made several coinciding call, colled quickly on plans to come here when I asked if he'd like to use linguistic ability on Caontable bit, never heard from since.

Hiw blighted my life never to have heard or read of the Zuckerkanndl Papers. I did hear of the Pentagon Papers, so paper is not foreign to me. The trouble is that Raip has had such experience of his own with Hutchins at all that he is incapable of detecting puton. That kind of Hutchins! The rewriter of the Constitution (And I tjough Mitchell had a patent).

When there are still Hoppes there is still joy in the world, and a mite of hope. That Sikspak is as good as Buchwald....Blight of living under the influence of the Eastern Intellectual Establishment: I nearxheard of the wondrous Gen. Hoo Dat. I know he doesn't intend racism and think it is great stuff.

Shea, Z et all remain wrapped in an enigma, Don't know who or which ate legut butts.

At this ppint I zonked out, napped for two hours and as for that part of 59 years I can recall, awakened not refreshed but nit lseepy. 10 mins. is better for me for working. Don't ask me what I meant by "legat butts". Three hours later I don't know!

I'll send you the carbon of the first or both pages. The ribbon needs changing and I should not have used the 3M waste.

JDW's later 5/31: Nothing new on Schoolfield. I have not had a word from Ray since I saw him a month ago. This is exceptional. I suspect he has had a message from Stoner. But with all I have to do, that could be a boon. Remains to be seen, depending in part on what the interest, if any, the Bailey office shows. Suspect they'll be more interested in Garrison's case. I'd expected some responses to some inquiries about Schoolfield, who was disbarred in Khattanoga some years ago. And with the lawyers' office dumping the ~~tax~~ dubbing of the tapes of the interviews on me, they remain undubbed. I may have weeked company that will do it.

I look forward to the second weekend more, when a Dartan editor and his fiancée are coming. She is to do a love story for which I could not change or present self enough, one that could make not only a movie but a worthwhile one. I'll have some kind of hunk of it. It is a beautiful story of very ordinary people, not slush.

Heard from Whalen today. He'll be coming up after his kids return from camp, whenever that will be. If he could escape congenital papist captivity, he could be quite a guy. Of those who flunked he is the lone honest one. Before the SEPost piece came out he begged me "don't do to me what you did to Knebel" and then explained he had no option. To me that is a kind of honesty. Lil will not forgive, but I've lived with so much of that I have a sliding scale.

Larry Finley was my source on AP's assigning two men. Your analysis of the reason is sensible. I hadn't thought of it and found myself wondering why. If one were Gavzer, I suspect I'd know. His work at the Archives was so incompetent I wonder if it were not more, deliberate dishonesty. But his work on the King case was superb, and despite his previous dishonesties (and what he and Moody did by miscitation of my sources can't be accident), you may not have noticed, but I went out of my way to praise what he did do in FRANK-UP. On that finkery, he worked in the Archives, Moody in the field.

It is always easy to misread and misjudge, but I think the change in him dates to a press conference I had on the appearance of OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. He and Moody were BOTH there, and this was after their crap had appeared. I think they were impressed, perhaps a bit converted. Two things have been true since then (and may be unrelated): Gavzer has stayed 100% away from assassination stuff except for King's; and his work on that can't be faulted and can without reservation be praised.

The piece on the Constable from Barnstable bit was a draft on prospect for the National Enquirer. It was a morning's work, as I recall, straight out of the top of the head, the hope being that I could simplify it enough for their readers because they have never paid me less than \$200 and our finances are again desperate. So, I restricted myself to a special approach and the first and last sentences, which were simpler. That, however, they found too complicated for their audience. I'll send. I also wanted to get a bit of it on paper as a prospectus, poor as it would be, for a novel. I had a deal going on this a year ago and the novelist decided to do something else. With the attempt on Wallace I'm sure he's sorry, for the book, coming out about that time, would have done something. If I do anything on this for another audience, I'll take more time and include more. I made only slight use of Duncan and Occam. And if I haven't sent it to you, I wrote Kelley

about this, and as you say about the author(s), seriousness of intent as of time of composition could not be ruled out. I've not heard from Kelley and don't expect to. I'll send a carbon. One of the reasons I'd discount Shea is that it would have required a collaborator in Rockville, a small town the width of the country away to mail the thing on my birthday. Take some doing or unusual coincidences.

On your King files, there was one thing you sent me relatively recently that I recall perhaps more. The one is the first Earl Caldwell story. I am reasonably certain it was a 3M copy. I file this stuff by intended use, not date, so I'll have to think of the places I could have put those early stories. But the central point here is that recently you did have that file, if that is any kind of reminder or clue to its whereabouts. The time was not too long before 5/6, which is when I left on the trip on which I planned to use it, in confrontation with Frank. His book did not come out until April 4 and it was a little while before I got a copy, so the time would not have been long before 5/6. It was his entire handling of Caldwell that made me suspicious and your clips justified the suspicion. That reminds me of another story. I am pretty certain you also sent the second day story, for until then I was unaware then had sent Caldwell in and apparently removed Caldwell. But I will check. It is now 11 p.m., so not now. Thanks and best regards,

Later 31 May 1972

Dear Harold:

Your first class mailing of May 27 came in later today, including the item for the Schoolfield file, which herewith is returned.

This also acknowledges your third class mailing of uncertain date but which was received here yesterday and which contained a rich lot of clippings including the long WX Post piece on Whalen and two exquisite columns by Art Buchwald. Thanks for it all, many thanks indeed.

I should explain that after the six weeks on the graveyard shift we took three weeks vacation which is now drawing to a close. We had intended to do some travelling, but were so exhausted that we spent the first week just getting hold of ourselves and trying to regain the sense of being live human beings. After that first week we picked up a bit and have been catching up on all sorts of things, doing long-hanging odd jobs and otherwise taking it fairly easy. For this reason I have not gone near the AP and have no idea who the two guys are whom they put on Bremer's track. Let's hope they're local guys from Milwaukee or Detroit rather than some recognized pro like Gavzer, who is a whiz ~~at~~ when he lets himself go and throws himself into a job, but whose work usually winds up with some fairly essential punches pulled -- not necessarily his doing, of course. One just doesn't know.

We already have sent you copies of the AP stories you mention (taken from the Chronicle, as I recall it) which describe Bremer's travels and companions. We'll naturally follow up with anything further that shows up. Interestingly enough, the NO States-Item apparently chose not to use these stories, although it's possible those issues may not yet have come in. The SI runs almost a week late now. Like you, I find it interesting that the AP would show so much interest in Bremer (I still find it a bit hard to believe that they'd put two men full time on him) and would hazard a guess that some of the Southern AP members might be behind this sudden interest. In this sense the NO ~~papers~~ papers don't fit. But there are members in Atlanta, Louisville and perhaps Charlotte who might well say to AP/NY: Look, you can stay with the official fairy stories when your northern liberals get knocked off, but don't expect us to be satisfied with that sort of treatment in this case. Perhaps I'm dreaming, but I don't see the AP putting two men on Bremer unless there has been firm pressure from some member or members who may be critical in a given area.

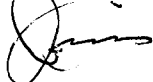
I note in ~~your~~ one of your notes to Larry (CDN ?) that you have worked up a piece on the "Can Mr. Weisberg Translate ?" note-threat. Sometime, perhaps after it's published, we would like to see a copy of what you have done with this, particularly to what extent, if any, we were able to contribute toward the translation. I still think the guy who wrote that note meant business, at least in his own mind.

By the way, among the odds jobs we've been doing has been some filing and file-reorganizing, and we find that our file on ~~xxxx~~ Martin Luther King Jr. begins with items dated April 9, 1968, instead of April 5, when they should. We have a vague impression that we shipped some, at least, of this early stuff to you at your request for you to check and possibly copy.

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When you have time, would you please check your files and see whether you still have it, if indeed you ever did. We cannot think of anything else we could have done with it. In the meantime we'll run still another search and see if we've merely misplaced it here in some way. Sorry to burden you with such a chore, but it's a bit startling to find the first four days of such a file completely missing.

All the best,



jdw

31 May 1972

HW:

The trouble with you, Ralph, is while you was seeing and hearing the whoooole thing on tee-vee a lot of other stuff was going on off camera.

Never heard of Alexander Zuckerkandl, eh? Why Virginia (I mean Ralph) you might as well say you never heard of Ed Sullivan or Johnny Carson. Only the greatest brain in human history. Only the authority to end all authorities, the man who knows all there is to know about everything.

Around ten years ago Dr. Robert M. Hutchings, after he left Chicago U. and after he became presiding officer at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Santa Barbara, produced a critique called The Zuckerkandl Papers. It defended the world-famous authority on everything, Alexander Zuckerkandl, from certain would-be detractors who obviously were too odious to be named. Couched in the most erudite academic language, it went on, page after page, explaining Zuckerkandl's daring theories and conclusions with the general implication that -- because Zuckerkandl had lived, thought and written -- all human thought was going to have to be re-ordered, somewhat along the lines the religionists professed to fear when the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered and translated. Or like the flap caused by Einstein's theory of relativity or by Darwin's conclusions on the evolution of species.

A careful reading, of course, made clear that Dr. Hutchins had gone to great pains to write several thousand words of the most polished nonsense without including a single fact. One got the impression that he had read at least one doctoral dissertation too many and was amusing himself by setting down a distillation of academic cliches.

We heard The Zuckerkandl Papers read on KPFA, and after recovering from a greatly weakened state managed to obtain a copy which long since has disappeared, so these recollections depend entirely upon uncertain memories at this late date. We have the impression that The Zuckerkandl Papers enjoyed considerable circulation privately through the more stratospheric levels of academia, and that a few Letters to the Editor appeared in publications like the New York Times and Saturday Review, attacking or upholding Hutchins with tongues firmly in cheek, before the whole thing vanished from public view. What remains is the indelible impression of Alexander Zuckerkandl established for all time as the all-purpose intellectual, somewhat comparable with Art Hoppe's all-purpose bureaucrat, Dr. Homer T. Pettibone.

Speaking of Hoppe, Ralph, we append the latest in his series on our friend and colleague, Mr. Joe Sikspak. It is perhaps not the best Sikspak that has appeared, but after all there have been only three or four and Joe hardly has had time to get rolling, but we anticipate that he will be with us for some time, even as Dr. Pettibone and Hoppe's even more durable Gen. Hoo Dat, leader of our fighting allies in East Vtnnng, whose exploits against the dread Vetrnarian guerrillas in West Vtnnng are known to all.

We suspect that Mr. Shea, having gone to the trouble of producing the first known photograph of Dr. Zuckerkandl (the usual camera-shy recluse, of course) could not resist sending copies to friends and Zuckerkandl fans, and for some reason best known to himself dealt you in.

You've had it, Ralph.

jdW31may72