

7/20/71

Dear Js,

Got a pre-daylight start this a.m., cleaning up some of the accumulation, and even had time for a brisker but shorter mountain climb that I have been taking of late, this contraction caused by the sudden appearance of menacing dogs at the top of the mt. Lil is sitting at a desk in the office of a lawyer friend whose sec. is vacationing, and I've 15-20 minutes before having to take her in. So, with my walking time taking the place of my former driving time, it also becomes my free thinking time. One of the things I pondered this a.m. is a novel based on the message, a non-fiction novel, not to be written by me but by a pro at novels, and I've proposed it to a friend with a major house, where I can quickly get an editorial rather than a policy judgement. Don't let the current lit fool you, there are still policy judgements. For example, I've had only editorial approval of draft chapters of AGENT OSWALD, but a negative policy decision in the form of one still delayed. After your I think significant Occam contribution, I've been thinking of a title, which may be premature, but what do you think of Occam's Occlusion (in the non-dental, non-technical sense)? Or, The Occam Breakthrough, should that turn out to be the case or the probability. If it comes to nothing, then other things? Sometimes a title is as important as ~~the~~ the contents.

On another subject, and no rush: I was given an excellent Remington Gamemaster rifle, brand new, for which I have no use. I've done nothing with it because I've been expecting a swap for a CB transceiver of maximum legal power, 5 watts, with battery alternative. It has been long enough since the offer was made to assume it is off. I have no real fear of living in relative isolation, but I also recognize the fact that daily I accumulate more enemies and daily the oldones come more potentially menacing. Also, and particularly because Lil has acute glaucoma (the kind that can never happen but when it does is fast-acting), I have to consider storms. We have been snowed in for more than a week at a time. Were such a storm to take the lines down, and I've seen that happen for as much as 17 days, tho rarely, this could be a useful device. We are in the mts., but we are, by air, no more than 3 miles for the sheriff's off., where they maintain a 24-hour watch on one channel, I think #8. Without the trees, close to line of sight. Were I to put the aerial on the roof, which I would not for a number of reasons, it would, I am sure be line-of-sight. So, there may come a time when I might consider buying such a rig. There is no dependable electronics info available here except, to a limited degree, from an engineer friend with the phone co. So, without going out of your way, when you are next at the shop with which you deal which seems to be dependable, please ask him if I could under the above circumstances, depend upon less than 5 watts, with an indoor aerial, and whatever his recommendation on this score, what would be the minimum rig he'd recommend and what would be the most dependable.

I fear the time you (both) took on the message may have been a burden, so I emphasize that if response is called for to any of these things, there is no rush...Another thing that strikes me as having possibilities, especially in the form of fiction, is the current Garrison thing if it turns out the way I think possible. If you form any notions as you read the papers, I'd appreciate your ideas. I have tentatively concluded that he was dragged in at the last minute, that there have to have been many, many more conversations between him and Gervis than the two acknowledge, all recorded, that they do not even come close to suggesting illegality, and that Gervais is largely responsible for this. Or, he turned 'em around. This makes a different kind of sense of JG's failure to say more of him than that they had been in the Army together. He either tipped JG off or JG could have detected it. To tip JG off, all PG need have done was make signs, point, or even show his equipment. Just a guess, but it is more than clear from the transcripts that he failed to feed the right lines to get the right responses, and did interrupt too much for a guy who knew his business and what his immediate objectives were....I have had no word from anyone in that office. Best,