

8/11/71

Dear Js,

This has been an interruptions day, beginning with my early-morning walk, when I encountered a man who has loose-running dogs although his wife earlier told the warden they had none. Naturally, I had to tell him of his situation (the dogs were newly-acquired). But he was so talkative it is fortunate that I got another 5 a.m. start in writing. Then the mail came, with a letter from James Ray that required a delicacy in response you may not detect from the enclosed carbon (sorry the last sheet seems to roll on this loaned mill). I can't warn him of Bud and can't tell him so many things through censorship. Some of it may be informative. Then the detective from near Baltimore with whom I have worked on the minutemen, etc. He had no more than left when the clerk of the Court of Appeals in DC phoned in answer to my letter (I do hope he is as well-disposed as he sounds, for the district court on all levels has screwed me and ignored what it should not, charges of criminality that were proven). And then I drafted the requisite papers, as best a non-lawyer can. And now there isn't enough time left before supper to do anything but read, and I'm not in the frame of mind for that.

There never is time for the things I'd like to do, which requires that I write and not enclose pictures I'd hoped to take. Lil has several afghans of which we want to give you one. She enjoys knitting and crocheting, finds it relaxing and helpful to her arthritic joints. Right now she is making a tiny one for the newborn son of a young reporter friend, this her own design and from left-over yarn. It has his name, date of birth, the peace symbol and is of many attractive colors. What she has finished gives you this choice: eight different shades of blue or 3 colors, coral, gold and olive green (which is much prettier than it may sound). You know which will go better. We'd prefer that you not protest and just make a choice, so I can send it before she gives another friend the one you might prefer. Thanks.

This is not to argue, but one of the things I just happened to catch on TV news (CBS-Bernard Kalb interviewing) this a.m. as I was about to leave for my walk was Fairbanks on Chica. While I think nothing he said would have been news to you, I think the change this kind of airing, this kind of content represents, would have been interesting. Most such stuff is not like this. This was a) good and b) good to be aired to a coast-to-coast audience. Imagine the possibilities if it gets to be a TV habit to tell it to the people as it really is! Even once in a while!

I think I didn't mention it earlier, but I do understand how you don't have time to read POST MORTEM. What I didn't fully appreciate is the enormous amount of work Jenifer does. I have to do this stuff too fast, am too close to it and would always prefer others to read, correct and suggest. One of the surprising experiences is the conformity in matters of writing of the non-conformist young, all of whom in such matters are as though stamped in the same machine.

The Thornley tape arrived, thanks, but I'll not play it now until I resume writing ~~AGENT~~ OSWALD. I'm having too much trouble keeping the medical stuff in mind, esp. with all the interruptions and unpleasantnesses. My publisher has just found another way to cheat me out of another \$380. I'll now have to borrow that when I go to D.C. again for we need it to pay taxes. Fortunately, I am pretty certain I can. Although we do not suffer from cold, that is an experience I had as a kid during the depression, so there is no experience I lack to know what it was like in those Paris garrets. And I do manage to work, although I do not believe the work is better for it. Anyway, you can see why I didn't feel like reading.

Best regards,