

Dear Les,

8/17/82

It is not lack of appreciation of your honesty that delays my thanks for thinking over the story I suggested. It is the ~~#5/c*70~~ Department of Justice!

I've been busy on FOIA affidavits, what Jim Lesar calls the Battle of the Affidavits. (Believe me, eyeball to eyeball, they blink, but the judges are impervious. To now, anyway.) As of now I still have one more to get into. But I go back to Georgetown for the monthly checkup tomorrow and won't be able to continue it then so I'm spending today catching up. Your thoughtful note is next to the bottom.

We've both paid our dues and your decision to try to lead the kind of life you want ought not trouble you.

I didn't take time out for reading for pleasure until the operations. Now I do, and even take in some of the Orioles games by radio and TV.

The people with whom I contend would have had successful careers under the KGB or Gestapo, but I'm sure they play lustily every Sunday! And turn their kids off or make crooks of them. Or addicts.

They won't even let an FOIA case come to an end with non-compliance except by keeping me tied up in further litigation over it.

If one judge ever gets too much of the official perjury with which they all live it will be worth the effort. Otherwise, ^{as} may it will be of historical interest some time in the future.

Only I never get a good judge unless he does not like FOIA. So it is tougher.

I know your feeling very well. I want to be able to get on a new book on the King assassination for which I have more than I can use, if less than I'd like. But I spend mornings doing the prescribed walking, little at a time, and the rest of the days go like this. Different reasons but same thing.

Hope all goes well with your new novel, and all else.

Thanks and best wishes,

LESLIE H. WHITTEN
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June 29

Dear Howard,

The stuff is enticing and I think the tenuous (at present) ties could be made straight and solid. So I thought about it for the last few days. Do I want to go into it, begin the reading, the remembering, the contacting, the locating of old dead leads? And when I looked at it that way, I came to the conclusion that I don't. What I amount to now is a man who'll do a one day story or a two day story but who doesn't want to do anymore.

As long as the meager income holds up, I want to spend my time as described. When it runs out, if it does (I finally have some hopes for my new novel) then I won't have any choice but to go back heavily into reporting. But even though it means disappointing old comrades like you, I am not going to put on the harness again. I admire you for staying in despite your ailments.

Best,

