

11/16/77

Dear Dave,

Your 11/14 and your paper both came today. I'm saving the paper for the Friday bus trip to Washington and back and the morning's weekly trip to the lab for a blood test. With a few other things, of course.

Writing Lardner a fairly full account of the Lane copout at SHA was a good idea. Too bad I didn't know in time to let you know that he flew to NYC to do a radio show instead, a proper course for an unselfish man concerned only with letting people know. If Lardner discusses this paper and the incident with me I'll let you know how he reacts.

I'm glad to hear that the computer people are thinking about this. The index box will be plural. If they can do it I'll send you measurements.

If you can draw upon someone with library science experience I'd like to offer some suggestions. I'm not at all sure they'll be appropriate to computerizing, about which I know nothing.

Aside from Sylvia's index, which I strongly encourage you to ask for in her corrected form (hand corrections) There is virtually no subject indexing in the field. My books are the exception. (There is confusion with the Dell editions and the appendix to O in NO was never published.) I believe that I did an excellent job, I've heard of not a single inaccuracy, and I believe that it may provide the basis for the ultimate index by computer. I don't know.

Our cards, by the way, include the xerox editions and the unprinted books like Coup d'Etat.

I think from your letter you should contact Aynesworth. Last I heard he was at the Dallas Times-Herald again. He was very nice to me when I was there in June.

However, he has a strong bias, especially strong against Lane. So I think you should seek a second source where possible. But I would cite the source and ask. I recall accounts of Lane spending time with reporters and I think that buried somewhere I have a tape of a round table that included him and Lane, of a later period.

I may be able to do it for you or to give you an assist. I'll be in Dallas the night of 11/21 for a kooky scheme involving ESP the Enquirer has cooked up. They are paying my expenses (and they are not doing it generally but also a per diem) and it will give me the opportunity of doing some other work. But it will be for a day or so only because as I'd forgotten it is the Thanksgiving period. If I'd realized that I'd probably have declined.

I don't know about your entire paper but I think Aynesworth would like the part on Lane. He might like all of it. He might also have strong disagreements but that would not concern me. He disagrees with me, too, and we got along fine.

Knowing the kind of weather you have I tell you that I did some light work outside much of the day wearing nothing over my shirt. It got up to 60, maybe a little more. I was dragging tree limbs large enough to burn in the fireplace from the far side of our property to the front lawn where I trimming out what I could with a machete and stacked what was too large for the first time a friend who was saw is here.

Felt good, too. My arms need the exercise, as do the blood vessels. But the report for tonight is rain.

However, recently, even with below-zero weather, most of our heat has been from the fireplace.

Best to everyone,

November 14, 1977

Harold Weisberg  
RR 12  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold:

Last Saturday night on the phone I seemed to have been tired and I forgot to mention a few minor points.

I will inquire about the index box.

The computer experts here have suggested to me that an index master list be drawn up via the computer tapes. Selected lists, corrections, etc. are then all possible from it, as is the continual addition of information. Similarly, the CD's etc. can be gone through eventually. I will inquire further if you think it has merit. I enclose a typical sheet that must be ~~is~~ encoded to make a computer ~~type-a~~ tape. 80 units can be put on a line, each unit can then be used for recall or set of units, or what not. The format of the print out is rather cumbersome, but is used regularly and can be done to order. The cost of ~~xxxxxxx~~ encoding ~~the quality of the~~ and printing it out through recall is very cheap,

Nash's biography of Penn Jones, Citizen's Arrest, quotes from an interview with Hugh Aynesworth who states he gave Mark Lane 90 percent of the information he used in ~~his~~ his testimony before the Warren Commission. Should I contact Aynesworth in the expectation of getting information from him on Lane'?

Regards

*Dave*

David