

Dear Paul (cc JL),

11/12/72

Both the letters you mailed 11/9 came today, just in time, thanks. Jim has a copy of the ~~XXXX~~ Jaworski 5/8, I read it to a Post reporter while Jim read other things, and he has taken a copy to them to add to what they got here. This does not mean they will use it, but it does mean they can.

I'd like to be able to make longer response, but Jim had hardly left when I was asked to tape a show by phone for 11/22 and it is now 2 pm. and I've not even read the paper and taken in the news.

First, what Jim had decided (with my agreement) had to be done now, the reason for his being here this a.m.

Howard came Friday. I've not been able to follow the papers with care. He showed me the NYTimes 11/6 report on Ford's testimony in which he swore he used no secrets in his book on which I've been backgrounding reporters. I immediately called a couple of papers, with no callback. Bud was not in. I thought some of his Hill friends might be interested. Also no callback. I told Jim when we spoke. He thought it over and called me Saturday and yesterday as the idea became more certain in his mind. So, he will file as simple an FOI suit as possible on this tomorrow. I agreed with him that the unique circumstances justify his view. Rather the combination. Jaworski, too. And Archives. The letter you sent says J sent Rankin the Hudkins story. If you will go over the copies of my Archives correspondence I've sent you, you will see that I asked for this and they do not have it, they say, or Goulden's. So, all the circumstances fit and make what I believe is the best timing, if not for you or me personally. We will have to see what if anything follows. I presume that Jim will let you have copies when and as he can. He will draft the complaint and will file it without showing it to me. I did a rough draft early this morning, including more than I think he'll want, gave it to him, and he'll decide what is necessary and what is not. It is not merely that I trust him, which I do. Time requires this. He has copies I made last night of my correspondence on this, all of it but one long and unnecessary letter to Vawter. He'll decide which are essential. We agreed to barebones this for a number of reasons most of which will be apparent to you. It is important to keep it simple. I would imagine that unless he finds some special significance in some letter, he will restrict himself to meeting the legal requirement, request, denial, appeal, denial and then the special thing here, the dodge they cooked up to frustrate both the law and their regulations. In addition, I believe he'll include my allegation to heads that he was giving Ford and exclusive copyright.

We'll have to see what will follow. Jim and I generally have no problems. We thrash things out and to date have always agreed. I have no doubt this will now also be true, so you can assume that he will speak for both of us if at any time you have any questions. It will be faster and shorter if you have any to ask him because there is a better chance that I'd have to ask him than that he'd ask me. I can visualize no situation in what can follow where he and I will have any disagreement and so far as I am concerned, it will be the way he finally thinks it should be. I'll feel more comfortable doing this now than I have in the past with Bud, on the spectro, for example. So, if you have any questions or suggestions, which I welcome and I'm sure he does, if you do not address us both, please send to him. He and I check often enough.

He knew of your request. I told him that I thought even a different lie to you was not important now and that it should not be used without consulting you. The time and place for that are not in the complaint and if experience in the spectro suit means anything, perhaps it will be best to ignore it now. In time this will be clear. In the simplest form, it means a second crack, benefitting from whatever happens in the first.

I am without doubt that WC files were removed from the Archives. I hope you will pursue this vigorously and it is in entire accord with what I think should be the direction of your book. I can later give you things bearing on close FBI/MJ connections, which could also be assumed. I've been there when he got calls from them. Off the top of my head, there have been things removed after I saw and asked for them. They have been memory-holed. Some of my requests are specific enough to show that I saw what I did not get and could not have known otherwise. Satff memos I remember with certainty. I would prefer that you do this without my figuring in it but with whatever I have or can recall



that can help. TCI stuff has disappeared. Howard wrote for me on this and we have that correspondence. This Hudkins story is one more example. The Doyle and Martin films are others. The originals of signed statements by witnesses, to which I've referred in my writing and on which I have correspondence you should have.

Add to the files that are too slim, Specter's.

There is another aspect of this that I've already addressed in PM, to the degree I now can and this is one area I'd be glad to abdicate and, in the long run, I think one of the most important ones. I think that in a book it would be zowie!

I do not know your plans and I do not recall how much of my Archives correspondence I have sent you but I do know that almost all of it is now indexed on cards thanks to Howard. I would suggest that if you come east again before you finish this, this time you give yourself time to stay here (both) and go over all of this so you can be certain you have or know all that I have on it. If you do, have a record of the period covered in what I've sent you. I may not have paper for it, but I do have a copying machine. You can copy whatever you do not have.

I am sure much has just plain disappeared and I think this is one of the more comprehensible and more sensational aspects. It could mean much to your book. Esp. after Watergate!

I will stay away from it.

Sprague/C&A: I have not seen. Existing pictures of the moving of boxes are good. I went into in WW.

Phone calls: Before the time you get up and after 6 p.m., the cost is much less. You may not suffer my respect for pennies. I hope you don't! What time are you usually home? Reduced rates begin origin time 6 p.m. or ~~Sixteen minutes~~ 3 your time. Another possibility is to make person-to-person and you say not there and will call back. This gives time for cold water on the face and awakening. Or for saying when the call can be returned. Having the taping setup is good. Overcomes sleepiness.

Tatler and Marion Johnson: I think he could have said without being misquoted or being quoted out of context that the secret files don't prove or disprove a conspiracy. Such learned and respectable journals have their own ethos. I have had trouble recognizing some of my own words!

Executive Action: I declined special invitations to previews and arranged invitation (unsolicited) to be on TV show with producer to eliminate possibility. The book is evil and Trumbo's genius can't remove taint. Some of the promos should turn your stomach. One sickening one was sent to me by a reporter. Lesar has others. Bracketed with Charach's promos. And Skolnick's. What a combo!

I wish I could hope the press will ignore! It is that much worse than bad.

"asty"est and thanks,