

5/14/71

Dear Js and Hal,

Neighbors are coming over in a half hour, I've not enough time to finish Dorman's book on Foreman in that time (I think it has been illuminating and has the off chance of providing an insight into some of the unexplained), so I chat for a few moments.

If I haven't told you, there is now a new dimension of John Kaplan, who axed me in the Sunday Times Book Review. I knew enough of his past to, in his words to Jerry, shake him up a bit when he learned that Kaplan is the last man in the world to be assigned such a review. He then indicated he'd do something to make it up - as though anything can - but he hasn't responded to my letter. I may write him tomorrow.

Kaplan has just done a job for USIA on the Angela Davis case. A foreign-correspondent friend got a copy and at my request sent it to Leonard, at the Times. That should disquiet him a bit more. And other should be wondering about Kaplan, who sure has a lot of time for a law professor- to write a book on pot, reviews, special studies for the USIA and what else? During the school year.

Something "dirty" is going on at Newsweek, but, typically, my publishers, who know about it, do not share it with me. Jerry picked it up by accident. It can be that Geoffrey Wolff, who wanted to write a commendatory review of WHITWASH for the Washington Post and was ordered not to, also liked this book and was then at Newsweek. He may have written it and they (owned by Wash Post) may be refusing to publish. Or, it could be dirtier.

Another remarkable "coincidence" I haven't reported to Hal, at least. I was told by a friend who knows them well to rite two of the top SCLC people. I did, sending him a carbon. He bought and sent them copies of the book. Of all of this mailing, only the carbon to my friend got delivered. My letters were written in March! And I do have a printed return address on my good stationary, stamped on the second-hand envelopes.

The fear and/or dishonesty of the major media is worse than with the JFK assassination. UPI and NBC, to my knowledge, assigned the book to their DJ reporters long ago. Nothing. All the major shows, having aired Huie, Foreman, Hanes and Clark on the other side, refuse fairness-doctrine time, with sterile or no reasons. If I had a publisher, he'd go to the FCC and maybe get enough attention that way. It is too much for me to undertake on my own, unless I can dope out some help. Maybe if I can stir some blacks a bit, they might join in it.

Media reminds me. I have been much disappointed that not one west-coast show has wanted to do meby phone, including all those that used to. Not one phoned when Ray tried to break jail (which may, if I ever learn it, be quite a story-he sometimes feeds me little things and I've gotten a sort of elliptical hint on this). That is really unusual. But at the press conference I had in NYC, this was the question first pursued, and by some with some vigor. It was part of the Amsterdam News lead. It is not a good sign. Perhaps Hal will pick up some reasons as he speaks to people. Perhaps the biggest disappointment is Jim Bacon's silence. I phoned several times and left an message, but no callback. I wrote. And I did speak to Spann's producer. Even innocently, I can't have offended all those people. And this is so unlike the Jim I knew. Or the Spann.

I finally got around to putting each of the declassified CDs in a separate file folder, in a few cases noting what they are about. There are several on Arnold Lewis Kessler, but what I saw yields nothing. One had a record of where he cashed travellers checks. As I can, I'll be analyzing them. There is a fairly large volume relating to Mexico.

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Of those who have already filed suit claiming false arrest and other things during the peace demonstrations, one Thomas N. Bethell, identified with "The Appalachian News Service", is one in today's Post. Tom used to teach in Virginia before he went to N.O.

So far, I've had less mail on F-U than on any other book. Not encouraging. Except for a broadcast I did to San Antonio by phone, ditto one to Washington, a five-minute segment on a Black TV News show in DC, and Elmer Gertz' ax job, plus wherever Barkham is syndicated, which I knew from the past includes SF, the book has had no attention outside of New York. I was able to do more than that on my own publications without leaving home. I think that much of it may be further disintegration on what is aired that can include information on controversial things. There must be fewer talk shows. With Steve Burton having quit the world after Garrison and Charlie Brown having moved to SF, there is nobody in LA to do anything for me. Even Art Kevin hasn't aired a thing. I like him too much to embarrass him by asking why.

But, none of it is encouraging, especially when I can't even get the balance of my "advance".

The NYReview is going to review, but after what they did to me with Popkin and what is even dirtier, what Avon tried for both of them with Popkin's book, I'd be foolish to expect something good, but I'm willing to be surprised by their trying to make it up. Maybe, sometime, such a thing will happen.

The National Enquirer did an interview they decided to convert into a by-line story. That should be out in about three weeks. But do they have a readership that buys \$10 books? Anyway, this will also yield enough for us to live on for three weeks. And they pay fairly promptly.

Pacifica is coming here Tuesday p.m. for what I hope will be the taping of more than one interview. They now have a DC office. I spoke to the guy there when he was in NYC.

Best to you all. Guests will be here soon.

Sincerely,

