

Dear Jim,

4/2/73

Reur 3/39, NYTimes, Wx Post. I am still too early for the Times most mornings and this will end altogether two weeks from today, for the cost is 10 miles of driving. This morning it got there while I was picking up the Post, so I got it. Lil pooped out for a while so I was later those days.

Howard, however, sends clips fairly often. Today I got three from him from the Times of 3/27. When this happens, I include a note immediately, thinking that maybe it can beat the mail edition to you and save the copying. I'll be getting more from Howard than from papers I get in Frederick. So, I think that for these two weeks it would be better to let you know what I have rather than what I don't have. After that, my buying the paper here will be a rarity. If I tell you the dates I don't get the Times and then tell you what Howard sends, I think it will be more confusing.

I guess maybe I'm a bit sensitive about my poverty. But the Post is only 10¢ and I am not making a special trip all the way into town to get it. I do this only on days I am in town. In two weeks this also will be academic, too. I'll be copying then. Maybe not. The Post is available everywhere papers are sold hereabouts, and I am not confined to home. Come to think of it, Lil will be working part-time, three days a week, in a different office, keeping the shop open for her boss. I think through August. I hate to tell you how little the guarantee is. But that, too, is the shape we are in. And she'll be doing her own work when she doesn't have his to do. But I think the Post is sold in that block.

What I think of is all the things you do for me

From tonight's TV net news, this story is just beginning! NBC's coverage was much better than CBS', if you catch that by radio. Ervin was really angry part of the time. He laughed when he quoted Shakespeare on what kind of meat those Whitehousers eat.

Same note: I think you err on Hunckle. It was the Freeo that printed the narcs list. Hunckle was always in trouble at Scanlon's. What did him in was the issue with all the instructions on explosives. That wasn't so much. But anything like that is a bit much. I have more and better stuff from a single source, the minutemen network director I once turned on by radio. I also have the notion he comes from a family of means. Maybe confusing with Keating? I'm still a little euphoric about finding the name "Flon" written on one of Jaffes's many French intelligence cards. Romero, Romero, wherefor art thou not Romero? I'm not going over everything. I hope Bob is sharp as he does.

I got a copy of the Village Voice sick interview with him by mail today. Bernstein was putting him on. Just recently he gave Carl what I had in June, and Carl was so very deeply grateful.

Some nasty is watching my mail or tyers is sudden efficiency in the post office. Both stamps were cancelled, but on a hasty look it was not visible. Both were scratched through with a ballpoint pen. Blue. Green ink splattered all over back. Including label.

Lesar phoned this p.m. about coming tomorrow. Two interesting things. Aris Coffin called him to ask about one of his conjectures about how Bud and McCord got together, not Prouty. He had discussed that with two people, both by phone. One me. He asked Coffin to ask his source for the original source. I told him about Prouty on CBS today. And his not answering whether he spoke for the military. Seems Jim and another have had that notion for a while and not shared it.

Your 28 beginning with Rothblatt. Denied fast enough by new Cubans' lawyer, so your hunch on feed to Post seems completely accurate. Question: what part of the Dept. Disinformation did this and was it to trigger the prompt denial?

As I understand it, there is no conflict between testifying before Senate committee and anywhere else. There is a problem: anything said before a committee can be used in court and is under oath, so it also opens perjury charges. And you know who prosecutes. I would think a man trained by the FBI would know he didn't have to wait, so I wonder about the real reason. I suspect it may have something to do with promises that could not be kept. Liddy is a lawyer and his case may well be different. I think that in operations this was the only one he was in on, this one generally, not just WG. So, he may be banking on what he knows for some kind of clemency. Like he gets so sick they get compassionate. Or he is psycho, but recovers fast after release. He is on thin ice in refusing to talk again today

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after immunity. Trial magazine had a fascinating issue on grand juries, what they are up to, how they do and can do one in.

I begin with your assumption, of bad blood between Helms and GL. But with the old boys, I'd be inclined to go in a different direction. Not that they'd like to shut McCord up but that for vengeance, they'd like him to lay it all out. McCord won't and I don't think will be able to throw the baby out with the water. This is now at the point where it is GL against the world. The only hazard to the spooks is that they prepared all this cats for that meowing. (I have long wanted to do a piece on what is done by the types ~~key~~ they recruit because they are such types, with the training they get and sometimes the materials (explosives).) On the rest, complete agreement. How GL has done the impossible, gotten himself out on two limbs and is sawing away at both. Now the GOPs have to get him!

Don't underestimate what the Congress CAN do. The questions are about what it will do. The more Ziegler sounds off as he did today, the better the chances of the backbones stiffening.

Your Ross/Stennis/Helms note: hand't thought of it. The lack of politeness is greater than you say. By now Helms would be retired. For so short a period, what GL did is about unheardof.

Fascinating story about the red-haired Crimean Jews. Never heard it before. Makes sense. Last time I saw Paul, he had all the possible hair showing. Got a kind of answer today. Will copy and will carbon.

Buckley tape: Hear has ordered two others. I'll get one. Unless you want all of it, I'll just dub that graf. I'll be getting the dub he made from NBC, too. If you want the whole thing dubbed, please tell me. I'll do. You can then, unless you want both, eliminate the aired tape.

Dean's threat: I also have not seen elsewhere. It also was not a real threat. The Supreme Court has redefined libel. Proving malice is essential. Reporting accurately what McCord said can't qualify, and what he tells the Senate is 100% in line. Take a Bean reading! His state of his legal competence.

Because this got to where promises could not be kept, anything is possible. Dean may well be small fry. Hunt, Martha, depparation and arrogance are among the key factors. This time, don't forget, Dear John is at Mouthy Martha's side. There is no King to become a special assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture by jabbing her. (Who says he doesn't qualify? Doesn't this make him a ham expert?) It seems reasonable to ask if John speaks with Martha's voice. Remember, when the kids were crying Liberate Martha we were agreeing that she was liberating John. Not from innocence. So, when Martha, who wasn't there, says she can and will name names, GL et cie will read John loud and clear. Watch out, insurance companies!

Don't be deceived by that hearsay jazz. It is irrelevant before Congressional committees and commissions. It applies in court only. Not even before grand juries. For the Congress to function, it is essential (and very proper) for its committees to take hearsay testimony. Weicher, by the way, also knows this.

All the throats are bare. All the players are vampires. This may yet be quite a show.

Nixon offended the entire Congress (for no other reason would or did Ervin react as he did today) with that razzmatazz about "cooperating" by letter. Compared to what he could have said, the irate Ervin was mild. This time you heard no GOPs in Congress quoted in response, did you? They may be prompted, but it didn't happen spontaneously. I'm surprised that on leaks he didn't not the GOPs on the committee and its staff.

Timing on that magnificent Hoppe (For God, Country - And the IPP) great. Geneen "testified" today!

One of the imponderables is the Sick Head on the Evil One. The combination is bad. Also dangerous to the schizo. Remember the copier? Pumpkin papers? Sudden wealthy laid the troubled ghost of the innocent hound years ago. No Checkers to kick around now. What else is there for him to copy?

Troubled, troubling - and very exciting - days lie ahead.

Best,

