

Dear Jim,

12/8/73

While Lil starts lunch, a beginning ~~is~~ of response to your 12/5 and unread enclosed clips. We've just returned from getting the snow-tires put on, with a forecast of 4"+ hereabouts, and I've enough trash wood to last a couple of days if there should be an emergency, like downed wires, possible with wet snow, as you may recall from boyhood. Enjoyed two hours of cutting trees down this a.m., without radio so I could think, so I don't know the news even.

I've laid the 22pp aside to take with me Tuesday, when we go to DC and I expect to see Jim. I think I sent you the note I sent Sussman on them, far less than the obvious.

It seems that in one of his games Ford had the help of a caddy who in turn had help from an assortment of interesting people. It also seems that Ford has changed the rules of his game, saying that those of the past are today, for him, inoperative.

By now you should have gotten a bit more of my script, with a part-time Mexican character who hangs out at just the right ~~place~~ area when he is in the ~~harified~~ air.

There is a broad inference that he shares the pasts of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the one who today mourns. More than the one certainly shared.

There was unnecessary delay in ascertaining if Parvin could be interested. There is a possibility.

Elfin apparently isn't. But there is a remarkable coincidence, probably only a coincidence, between his saying he would have his investigative man in ~~touch~~ with me and the solicitation for me to join the Veterans of the OSS, both this man and the one who had the invitation extended being named Nicholas and I didn't get the last name of ~~the~~ Elfin'd.

The beanpot still is not in the oven. There was in so many ways a suggestion of the waif. The long-silent waif. There were physical resemblances, in build, height, bitten nails, etc. I noticed these pronto but dismissed. Until one refernce I made, to a big blowup of the past, when I also noticed the largely-successful effort to hide reaction. After that and the inconsistencies I decided that the offbeat was not necessarily a satisfactory explanation. The ensuing silence in the face of offered good stories is not usual. Nor is the silence of the friend I wrote, who appears to have been the recommender of the initial contact. I did not learn this until I saw him that weekend.

On the Dutton settlement, which I hope will make us and our bank a nice Xmas present, I think there is another explanation. While I am getting 100% of my demands, it is considerably less than I could sue for and for which I could make out a reasonable case. I took the risk of spelling enough out in my negotiations. It is for less than their probable cost if I go to court. When their lawyer said he'd have to tell them to weigh the costs, I suggested that the balancing should include the added cost if I win, as I expected to. I think they realized how serious I was when I said lets not crap around. If I have to sue, tell me and I'll start. David did sell more than 1,000 copies of a \$10.00 book after I bought them from him. "e did commit fraud on the "advance" and his lawyer was accomodating enough to provide the missing elements of proof. So, the \$5,500 I am to get- the release is signed and on the way back - is really only the unpaid balance of the advance, thegorss of what David got for the books after I bought them, the small sums out of which he cheated me, and the interest I have actually paid. In all, the least I could prove in court not counting the value I could claim to expect from those sold books, almost \$10,000. It was a good deal for Dutton once they realized I would not further compromise it. However, I am delighted to make any sacrifice to be able to use this money to repay what I've had to borrow to meet my obligations to the bank and to pay them. We have decided that instead of holding some back to help with living expenses, all is going on our debt. Unless I can get more work done on the house roof this time of the year and talk Lil into buying shoes she needs (corrective). In these events, almost 100%. I've already gotten an agreement with the bank to return whatever I may need if I need any at tax time, so I can safely give them all. And now I'm naming other efforts along the same line. I'm disappointed that Treuhart is silent. I think that in dunning me for money I don't owe them, "aymar has tolled the statute. It sure would be something to get the debt off our backs! Then all we'd have to worry about is living expenses, which are about to zoom. I've cut our fuel-oil bill below the minimum and in the year I've been doing the grocery shopping, meaning all instead of just some, we've been eating and even entertaining once in a while on not over \$65.00 a month. And we even had a 24-lb turkey for Thanksgiving.

Your concluding graf says what I've long believe and represents what really converted me to Je's notion on Butterfield. None of the recent developments shake my faith in her hunch. He has to run each risk each day, one at a time, for it is that bad. The clip you sent on Aunt/Chapin is another case in point. If you can recall the things I've noted in the past going back to the cochines matter of years ago and the connections of that period, you can get the feel. The Newsweek blow-the-lid quote I've not seen elsewhere, and this is quite surprising for Rhyne, an old Nixonian and the man who thought a law day was necessary to offset a working-man's day. I don't get Newsweek and it looks like I won't.

Read all but the McCabe clipping at lunch. Wil was reading that when I finished. She likes the stamps, so they are hers, for which we both thank.

The ACLU (your enclosure) makes the right noises -too late. I've had long experience, and recent experience. They called me and then cooled.

Odd that the Anderson column I got from Chicago wasn't used there, either. Second case recently. I didn't know you had interviewed Owens. Turner's effort was futile. I've always had some doubts about Owens, I suppose initially because of Christian.

The Newsweek handling of the Slap-Tap Flap is the best I've seen. I have been keeping a Psycho file for so long and have accumulated so much I've stopped making notes on appearance, as you may have noticed. Of course, appearance is complicated by fear of what may be asked. He knows what can be! This goes back to those memos of long ago to those honored young reporters, who failed to pick up the leads I gave them. I had zeroed in that early, as soon as Je provided the Who's Who, which gave me the key addresses. (One, by the way, do details, when traced, with the current ellipsis.)

Before we have ~~max~~ the predicted falling weather, I think I'll go out, despite tiredness, and resuscitate an ailing spruce from those repressive influences.

And think a bit more. I do believe that we are now in a new era. Touch and go and worry.

Pearl Harbor day was the right one!

I'll give Jim the copying Tuesday and he'll mail it when he can get it xeroxed. I read it once, in haste, and would welcome what the suspicious mind might find!

Best,

