

JAN 14 1974

Dear Jim,

1/14/74

The personal things, like the account of the weather, in your 1/10 reminds me of one about an old friend of ours, Bernie, of whom I'd intended writing you. It seems that he has been visiting those I would not have regarded as his friends, the Chileans, and in secret. It was all very informal. I had felt he had made this effort. Now I know. Unimaginative fellow. His intellectual capacity did not improve in the intervening years.

We still have vestiges of snow. It is no so hard I walk on it without tracking any into the house. When it is working I'm in and out often enough, brining in bugging and waterlogged wood to burn. When she is away regardless of the weather I have the furnace off. Night after we retire, too. Fortunately I was up twice between midnight and 5:30 or it would have been lower than 42 when I started the day. As you can probably remember from your boyhood, it is no big deal. With the Army ^{Long} Johns I can work near the fireplace until I get the place warmer. Today I didn't even go into the office, one of the advantages of accumulating what I have to read. I'm near it now but the temperature is so low I've got the drapes closed, all 25 feet of them, so the light isn't good. Despite the poor burning qualities of rotten and waterlogged wood, I've gotten good mileage out of it. From the time I started the fireplace until now it has not gotten cold. Because it is fieldstone to the ceiling and about six feet wide, then it warms to does some good. As soon as the ground is not slippery I'll cut some more and we'll be in pretty good shape. The saving have been fantastic for us. So much so that I've invested in a decent cart, with ball-bearing bicycle-type wheels about twice as thick as the widest bike wheels I've ever seen and I find that in it I can haul with relative ease four times as much as dragged me down in the cheap garden cart. If we get a couple od dry days after the snow is gone I'll get enough to make a big difference.

We, too, have been on the edge of much more serious storms. Just a few miles deeper into the mountains it was very deep snow. Fortunately, we've been snowed in but twice, neither time for long.

The success of this money-saving venture is tempting me to extravagance tomorrow's events will make possible. Lil's sister has a decent, modern tractor and she is talking about moving into an apartment now she she is a widow and her son is wayward. Not only for the firewood, either. We have five beautiful acres that had turned wild when abandoned. It is rather much rescuing all of it. I've got only about half under control. We have a local firebug, an alienated young man, so I'll ~~xxxxx~~ very anxious to get all the heavy combustibles off the ground and some roadways in wide enough for a small truck cleared.

With luck by the end of the month I'll no longer owe the bank anything and, while there will remain other debts and we'll continue to live extraordinarily tightly, if she doesn't want too much maybe I can swing it and with the time it will save me be able to do some of the things Lil want's done and everyday chores make impossible.

It would have the added advantage of relieving some of the pressures, which also makes it rempting.

This leads to your thought that is still another I had not considered. The series is now long enough for me to take time to think it through. Half of the three hours I'll spend on the road tomorrow should be enough. There will be other things on my mind driving back. I'm sure! Without other ideas coming to mind, I think in both cases I have the settle ~~statements~~ only because it was the better alternative for those who agreed. With the feds I think the difference is that my lawyer knew I was determined and his new adversary is a friend who would take his word for it. Therefore, among the other considerations, one being the greater cost of litigating that settling and another being the real hazard of my setting still another legal precedent, they haggled. They could easily have accepted my first offer. They got their pound of flesh, with some blood. With Dutton is was somewhat the same. What they paid me is less than it would have cost them to go to court and in court they had the high probability of beginning with what I asked for. Or, this was the cheapest thing for them. In addition, in court it would have looked as though their new subsidiary had done a job on me for the government, and that they would not want, especially not if the case got any attention. I did have David's voice on tape with his knowledge saying exactly what I represented, it was fraud, and they are so satisfied they don't even want dubs. I hope no disquieting thought come to mind tomorrow because this makes sense to me.

There is also a bit of comfort in other things, and we can use even slight comfort. In today's mail again orders and small checks. No day without either or both. The orders, interestingly, to Hyattstown, so not from even the listings in Books in Print. We owe the printer, who knows our situation, so in using this money as it comes in we are not increasing our debt. The fact of the long period of unsolicited orders is meaningful, I think, more so because of the difficulty in learning about me and my books. It takes some determination and persistence.

If we have been watched and not misunderstood, it has to be obvious that the dominant concern in our recent years has been our debt. I don't think that anyone who wants to hurt or impede me would do anything that could relieve us in any way if he saw a better choice.

Again, I appreciate the prodding to make me think as I have failed to.

The Hunter Thompson piece is well done. He also agrees with us on the "health" fall-back. I think he puts it the wrong way in discussing the possibility of a nuclear strike against China. He says, "it will not be quite as easy for him now as it would have been last year." Ease is not the operative factor, need is, I believe, needs as the sick minds conceive need through desperation. I think his need and his perceived need is greater now than it was six months or a year ago. This is one of the troubling harmonics of those orchestrated leaks out of the Post this fast.

This is a variant of what was planned and I will go into in Tiger, an invasion of China. That and the beginnings of an effort to forge an alliance with the USSR go back to the JFK years, that probably farther but I have not traced it with proof farther back.

I agree with your reading of Superkraut. However, he also had departed from the cliches of his past when confronted with need. I think that what may prevent a fait accompli on this is the division within the military.

The formulation I have was in print, in a book by a historian who did not fully understand what he reported. I have not seen it in any news or magazine writing. Nor heard it.

Loeb's retraction on Chotiner does not disclose what you should have not too much trouble comprehending, knowing all about strange bedfellows. Partin has been toying with siding with Hoffa for some time now. I gave the WxPost definitive stuff on this long ago but they didn't use. Now we have a Sheridan bugging of an Egan-Partin palsy-walsy bit and I have wind of still newer developments. Seems like the pro-Nixon Teamsters also want to dump Partin. Where can he turn? So, he did.

The AP story on the Sally Harmony amnesia adds to what the WxPost had, thanks. I'll be adding to it, too. She went too far in her not remembering. She could not have failed to remember the sums she wrote in for they are the key to the whole thing and she knew it. I'd like to feel that this, at last, is a deposition that was not taken incompetently. All those I've gone over were. From the stuff missing from the story I'm sure it was not well done.

Hogan on Hunt is interesting. I've ordered Szulc's book. I find several things here interesting. Question, under the Gould contract could he retire from the NYTimes after only 18 years? The story I got, I think from someone at the Post or from Ian is that he had his 20 years in and this did not seem to come out of Who's Who. Szulc's recalling the name "Eduardo" merely proves how 20-20 his hindsight is. He had no reference to the man or the role in his Bay Pigs book. And I don't think he is the reporter who panicked Hunt. In fact, I don't think any reporter did. The FBI was at his home by supertime 6/17/72. There was also a NYPost piece. I'm getting. If anything in it I'll send.

Especially because I'd thought of hijackers and those Barbary pirates and I overwhelmed in admiration for what Hoppe did with it. Who else could have? Incredible talent. There seems to have been some military complaint in a "risco paper over the weekend, reported on radio but I've not read Post ~~yet~~ yet. May be part of another story.

Waldron didn't come because he was sent to t. Paul to cover a trial. Still wants to.

There are several things you mention I'll want to address separately for separate filing so when I'm more comfortable and better lighted I'll get to them.

I hope I won't be much longer getting to the Caddy-Bennett refile and reading. I was tempted by 18" two-drawer file cabinets for \$2 13 each so I got two that, when loaded, will also hold the copying machine when I can block the air conditioner. I've moved enough into them to be able to file again in my WG drawers. Best, HW 1/14/74