

Dear Js,

11/7/74

The only clips I've taken time for since returning are these valuable ones with Jim's 11/3. It is good to get another's input again!

I've not seen Waldron's reporting. I know from Paul Valentine that he had a nonsense conspiract-to-be-disclosed story the first day that made trouble for Paul, who couldn't get away with the truth, that it was all b.s. However, I don't think this had anything to do with the Post's deficiencies, unless it made it easier for fiinks to fiink.

Your expectation on the reporting is, I think, the actuality. They did what they had to do. The amount of work they did greatly exceeds the amount of reporting they did. So, I think Paul and Martin anticipate further writing and I know Nick Chriss has already done it because he did it in my room and on my borrowed typewriter and with documents I supplied. I don't think he made the deadline for a Sunday piece, though.

Paul and Martin did not use notebooks. They used legal pads and filled them. They took more notes than out official notetaker, Livingston. But I dare not ask them for copies. They'd misunderstand.

All these guys, however, have a conflict with their past. None spotted what all should have when it was happening right in front of them. Paul's guilt is reflected in what he dragged in by the invisible heels in the story you sent, that Ray had repeated he was pleading voluntarily. After the documentary evidence he heard and saw???

Ray Breshears is a Ferri-type reverend and as you guessed, homosexual. He did live with Ferrie and there all his contact with reality ends. (ref. JDW's 11/4 note on KCBS 10/29/74) He has been exploiting this in every way possible. He went back to N.O. and made such a nuisance of himself the Garrison people ran him out of town. Literally. Choice jail. He has been so farout, so irresponsible, that work for another is not impossible. However, I tend toward Occam and suggest he is promoting himself.

Je's RMK compendium is informative because I had not been able to keep up that far back with what I had to prepare for. Looking at it all together the correlations seems clear enough. Here again I'd suggest it is not isolated. More likely the deciding factor. Any man who is young and wants to be President now has to be nuts. Nobody can possibly rectify all the LBJ and RMN herres Ford is so sedulously compounding. Moreover, when the tough get going when the going gets rougher, there will be a quest for goats. We are in for the deepest trouble.

My construction problems are minor compared to yours but I have some. A dam to repair (without a ~~helpful~~ helpful neighbor) and a wellcap and two sets of stairs to complete pouring if our freeboarding farm tenant does not return to finish them. My more immediate worry is whether in November I should mow the tee-long grass! And I've got to get to cutting fireweed soon. But except for the cost, these things are good for us at our age.

Tennessee: I think that under the circumstances we did remarkably well and under any circumstances better than merely good. I think that when I thought of it I mailed you carbons a few times from down there and more from here, not knowing whether they'd interest. It was quite a challenge. With a real criminal lawyer, an experienced courtroom type with average courage we'd have made legal history with what emerged from the earlier trip and what we snaffled this trip because the baddies were left uncertain about what I had when they considered what I showed them. And how I discussed it. It is the opposite of Valentine's story that I suspect was edited into error. We had copies of the intercepted legal and judicial Ray correspondence, from the prosecutor. I've already mailed my effort to compensate for a lawyers' oversight on continuing surveillance.

Peer Mae! She has to live her fictions or life has no meaning for her.

Dr. Lundgren: Am I wrong in thinking that the family and Dr. Tkach have both been scarce around fallen GL's room? Could he run a country when he couldn't run his own immediate affairs? I'll bet he cancelled his medical insurance once he knew he could lay it onto our tax bills and now blames others. Am I wrong in seeing the possibility of a perverse self-destructiveness in all of this? More than an excuse to avoid testimony. Real paranoia, too?

I've been out of touch for so long! There isn't what can be called a newspaper in Memphis. When I could delay that long I took in the 10-minutes of "news" on NBC's Today show at 7 a.m. while shaving and looked at the local TV news only long enough to detect the attitude toward us as coverage reflected it. Today I breakfasted to the CBS 7 a.m. net TV news. Virtually newsless news. A few good jokes, though.

Caught some while supping. I have the impression that Maximum John will become known for having done the maximum toward reversible error before the legal history of Watergate is writ. The prosecution seems not to have done the possible to establish the integrity of the tapes. With the machines used the panel of experts could have done this. Without it the requirements of evidence may not have been met.

Dependence on the tapes means inadequate investigation. Look what happened in the Senate when they became known. Nothing else. Shade of Butterfield!

Particularly glad to get the lawyers' letters to the NYTimes. And that the Times printed them, esp. re Jaworski. I think I spelled this out long ago in a letter to Barry Sussman repeating what I'd told him in person. After the national desk killed the story. He accomplished what he set out to do. Why not quit while ahead then? Only nobody read what his past said had to be his objective in taking the job. None so blind.....

Lil has clipped the Post. Hope to get to read some of it tomorrow. Seems funny not to be up to date on WG. But I think there will be little of substance that is new.

The special edition of Harpers was a disappointment. Because they alleged interest in the new book I rushed through it. Seems that nobody wants to add to what is public. Liddy's perception of patriotism as fascism is not all that big a deal.

Don't trouble to send me Waldren's stories until I see if Jim's wife saved them. If not I'll ask later. Merely for a record. He can't have written as he spoke. The Times would not have carried it if he had.

Meanwhile, a grand jury may be indicting Foreman soon, Obstruction justice. And the formerly radical lawyer Phil Hirschke, now pals with the Huats of Dallas. Nick Chariss' story was to have been on Foreman but he is not connected with the evidence. Fareut story but I've seen the evidence. It was stolen by Foreman's victim who was in a position to steal it. It duplicates what I've always thought Foreman did in the Ray case.

Foreman appears to have a special sickness, getting his kicks out of ruining others. He acquires just to take away and then, perversely, lets everything rot. He has taken more than 80 homes this way and won't rent or sell one. Ditto on house trailers. Strange form of sadism. But nothing else makes sense.

Copies WW IV not yet delivered so I've none to send. Had one and gave it to Nat. Star today on chance selling ancillary rights. Don't know why printer hasn't delivered.

Best,

