

29 November 1974

Dear Harold:

Just a note to let you know that following my last on Nov. 23, your book arrived okay on the following Monday, the 25th. CF Waldron's experience. In the meantime your mailings of the 22nd and 26th have come in, with good news about the coverage you got and its effects.

Locally we've heard or seen nothing whatever about it. If the Chronicle used the AP story, it wasn't in the edition we get, which I believe is the second of its three editions. As you guessed, the story may have moved too late for the first edition and the edition we receive through local delivery; in any case we did not see the final edition. On the other hand it is possible that it was used in the first edition and then pulled from the other two editions. You never can tell with the Chron, which has been appropriately listed by [more] as among the 10 worst dailies in the country. We have been much preoccupied and busy here at the house this past week, and it did not occur to me to check the Examiner, which you also say you heard used the AP story. I'm still in the process of reading the book, and have not yet been able to inquire from a couple of local paperback outfits whether they have had any calls for it and are interested.

The roofers came a few days ago and fixed us up, and since then I've been busy cleaning up after them and taking care of a number of things which had been hanging fire until that job was done. Consequently I've been able to read only your part of the book and the actual transcript of the Jan. 27 meeting. Then my eyes gave out that particular evening and I had to lay it aside. Your intro is admirably succinct and restrained, I thought; clear and not contentious, with an evident determination to lay out the facts and let the reader decide for himself. Good stuff. It's impact may be slow in taking shape, but I have no doubt this may be one of your most effective jobs. It's just possible that this back-door approach, with its unavoidable lack of build-up, may be far more successful than could have been expected. Let's hope so.

I'm too far removed to have an intelligent understanding of Bud's letter to Ray, its apparent implied accusation, and of the steps you have taken to counter it. But it certainly looks like he is making the first move to hang something on you, and if I were in your shoes I would muster every available scrap of proof of its falsity. My personal suspicion is that sickness does not begin to explain this. Remember Waldron's warning. In any case, this looks like it could be the beginning of a real job. Hope not, but I don't take this letter at all lightly.

Back to the book coverage: The AP's Shirk is a new name to me, probably some eager gal from the provinces who has been transferred to WX by NY and shoved on to the graveyard shift as often happens. If so, this means the night shift probably waited for the policy decision you guessed and then fobbed the job off on the much smaller early or graveyard shift. Or, the Post's dupe or galley proof (if the AP still gets them) arrived too late for the night shift. No telling. Despite Baker's backing into the story, he did manage to get most of the main points into his story, and I was surprised that the Post gave it as much space and prominence as it did. Hope the AP did better by you, as the Frederick Post certainly did (and for which thanks).  
Let me know if there's anything I can do, and best,