

JUN 3 1975

Dear Jim,

6/2/75

Glad to know it was the Mayaguez and nothing personal.

Hoppe was as usual on it. Sending to Howard. We both enjoyed it,

The people who can bring us that can bring us anything. That they try suggests they may yet. Shudder...

6/3: At this point a delayed college student who is working on the Congress came. I'd never had a chance to talk to him alone except by phone. He is ~~sharp~~ sharp enough to have detected serious flaws in what the others were doing and saying. I met him first at Lane's announcement of his new commission. Lane turned him off because this kid was sharper than some of the press, detecting that Lane was promoting Lane. He was helped reach this conclusion by Lane and his honchos and honchettes asking questions about his talking to me. We talked until 2 a.m., by which time he had a better idea of what can and can not work at their coming confab and understands the foolishness of engaging in what can't work if there is a prospect of success. He and his will be lobbying and they'll be accepting the advice of those on the Hill who want success.

I was originally sure that Craig's death was suicide. I can't see any reason for considering it otherwise now. My information comes from a new source, a woman I've put in touch with a dependable Dallas source. To date what she has and reports she attributes to personal observation and Craig's former family. The father recounts a mysterious last time he saw Roger, when Roger acted as though someone else was in the house and declined to leave on a short trip with his father to get a lawn-mower part. She now says there were two shots with a single-action 22 and that the bloody pool was across the room; that the authorities will not release the autopsy report or the suicide note; and most mysterious, Roger had skinned right knuckles and one Richard Randolph Carr (or the first two reversed), close to and nutty as Penn, had a swollen lip. Roger had no use of his left arm. Her theory is that Penn put Carr up to it because Craig was going to expose Jones. Until I know more this is where it rests. Craig made notes (disappeared) and had a manuscript of sort. It is not dependable and except for one unconfirmable fact has nothing new that can be accepted as factual. Reading this has been one of the new time-consumers. The fact is that they heard of the Tippit killing at 1:06. I can believe this and do, but I need other confirmation. Understand Tippit did not answer a 1:04 call and that there is a witness with a seemingly solid story who claims to have been the one who made the actual broadcast when Benavides did not because he could not. Belin questioned Benavides and ignored this man whose affidavit was on file. I have it. If and when I resolve I'll let you know.

You size O'Toole up right. There was one change only: after my NYU speech, the cui bonos about him, which pretty clearly indicate service to the company and alleged personal dishonesty. He and the Penthouse rep took this much to heart and P rep laid court to Lesar with explanations that explained naught. So, since then and for the first time, perhaps not always in response to questions as on Eason's show, he has gone out of his way to say nice things about me simultaneously keeping how to get in touch with me secret. Never a line on how to get a book from me. This is, as you say, not stupid. He reacted intelligently and is building a record to which he can refer if the record is without real meaning.

Fascinating that the columnists all saw the Mayaguez incident for what it was. I've been too busy to read the papers, skimming for what I need only and that perhaps too fast. I see only the WxPost. Lil goes over the local. There are more of these in recent history than is generally understood and with more countries. They don't all work out that way. LBJ had one with Cuban fisherman that came close, the reverse of the M. affair. O don't think they are as haphazard as the electronic account of the M. affair indicates.

The bird reminds of so many similar events when we farmed and had up to 29 cats at one time. These little actualities can be quite charming. I remember what eventuated at the farm: the cats and birds worked out an arrangement ~~in~~ whereby the cats never punched on a bird behind the house, where we fed the cats, on the house side of the fence and the birds were fair game elsewhere. And we had nary a cat that would kill a baby chick. We have a special sparrow that size hereabout but rare. Hope you make it! Best.

HU

We've had cats who would not kill birds. The last, one of the two we brought here as brother kittens, had as his one frustration the refusal of the birds to trust him. His brother had committed involuntary suicide by climbing up onto a warm engine and getting killed when my sister's husband started his car. Caught in fan-belt. Well, we also have involuntary suicides among the birds. They think they can fly through the all-~~new~~ thermopane house. The first of those who commonly break their necks this way Θ all do not - this kitten saw he picked up with tenderness and tried to take into the house for Lil to heal!

My farmer's problem with the more common birds, especially sparrows and starlings, is that they carried common poultry ailments and I had healthy stock not immune to most of them because I was isolated enough from other poultry.

The only present problem comes from the kids of the upper middleclass neighbors who get no fatherly attention and turn to idle occupations like simply killing, beginning with air guns and graduating to 22s and shotguns. They just kill. Even our beautiful golden trout (actually red). Shoot them and don't even take them to eat. Not that there also isn't poaching. more on the bass. These get some tame each spring they swim along the edges of the pond with us as we walk, stopping and turning back when we stop. We do feed the birds and they do gather around the house for this and we do love it. We ~~also~~ also regret the greatly-reduced number of the rarer ones, decimated by these boys whose lives have no direction or substantial interests. Of course we get the greatest kick from the migratories who return to the same territory each year and stay with us for varying lengths of time. But I don't ~~think~~ think we today have 5% of the birds we had before this housing development went up on the far side of our woods.

Same with the small wild animals. We have neither dog nor cat so we can now enjoy the wild ones. People who visit do, too. It is not generally understood how they adapt to people. We've even had tame skunks, still wild and never housed. They merely came to trust us. I've never taken one out of the swimming pool (still alive-most drown before I become aware) and had it discharge on me. When Lil worked in the heart of town during tax season I used to get and stockpile stale bread and feed regularly, always at diagonally opposite ~~the~~ ends of the carport on which the window by which I type gives. Early a.m. skunks and possums would look greetings at me as they licked up what the birds left.