

OCT 15 1975

JDW:

10/9/75

Until almost dark I did not think it would be possible to hold a leg in the air and type because I'd been using a barstool that was too high. If this kitchen stepstool permits the same lack of discomfort I'll get much more done today.

The time for response to my C.A. 1448-75, for the two complete and one partial executive session transcripts has about expired. I asked Lesar if he would agree to my writing Rhoads along the line of the attached and to the proposal that follows. He did.

So, anticipating two possibilities, I spoke to Crewdson, whose agreement I have.

One possibility is that the feds will decide not to risk suit where their real reasons for withholding are spurious. The other is that they'll leak in advance to one who will angle their way. They've done this more than once.

I proposed to Crewdson that if I am given any or all of these transcripts I'll give them all away immediately. Without having time to read them. Cold. I'll go to whatever place he and those with whom he would work select. I suggested one with xeroxing facilities. He agreed. I said I preferred that all interested reporters have equal access if desired by any and he also agreed.

He is working on a Nosenko story. I am sure that at least one session was on Nosenko, perhaps more than one part. He is sort of captive of his sources, who are parti pris. I haven't argued with him. I have given him to understand his sources are not entirely detached. As of Tuesday I expect him to go ahead with a story that serves spook interests. I content myself with giving him to understand his angle is not solid if his sources appear to be. I also think his sources are fashioning a self-hoisting petard.

He will be saying that the counter-intelligence units of both CIA and FBI did not trust Nosenko and did not tell the Warren Commission this.

He does not have all the relevant files. "One say this. His sources do.

Of what was checked out there is nothing Nosenko said, including what was not believed, that did not stack. Obviously there is no way of checking his representation of KGB files. But there are ways of checking his representations. All those not included in the official work of which I have copies and Crewdson does not do hold up, solidly.

Interesting situation. The feds are screwing the press again.

It appears to me the situation has changed enough for the press not to like it.

Waldron suggested the enclosed letter to Hedrick Smith. I dictated it to Lil with frequent phone interruptions. Hope it is comprehensible. I take it the previously unidentified editor who wants the thing to come apart is Smith. I've never spoken to him.

If there is federal hankypanky if it does chose to leak these TOP SECRET pages denied me, there is now an advance press awareness. There can't be copies in many files. Archives, CIA, maybe FBI/DJ.

Without specifying or being asked for specifics I told Crewdson that the Times has been used this way before.

The last of the phone calls told me I may get books sooner than promised.

Best,

October 9, 1975

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Building
Washington, D. C. 20000

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

The time for response to my C.A. 1448-75 has about expired. We have had no response, formal or informal.

As you know, I look back on a long record and history. It is consistent in a number of ways. One is in giving others what has been denied me. And by you.

I do not know what your and the government's response will be. However, also not exactly uncommon is the last-minute delivery of what I have sought.

Should this be the decision in what I seek in this action, my purpose in writing is to ask that I be telephoned and told this so that I may go to Washington to pick it up in person rather than have this or any part mailed me. What I want to avoid is a violation of my minimal rights, to equal access to that for which I alone have filed. The GSA-Kennedy estate representative contract is a case in point.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg