

JDW: Not knowing him you cannot share my joy at hearing Les Payne's voice when he called today, just back from S. Africa. You may have seen some of his stories. Newsday syndicated. He has more to do and then a book. We expect him here next week. He is a fine human, a fine reporter and one who does not tailor his blackness to suit his bosses. He also does not exploit his blackness, although he now thinks that if there were more around he'd never have gotten his job. He bumped into Fauntroy in some remote place over there and began by asking why the hell he was not answered. F. whimpered. But he did say, one is persona non grata, as I expected the combination of my ridicule over the blunders from him to the staff and what Lardner went for, less in the syndicated version, might take it that way. Lardner understood what I was doing and told me after following the cue he presumed I was satisfied... JL spoke by accident to Judge Pratt (spectro case) when he phoned his clerk today. Pratt may or may not be chastened after his Mandel trial experience. The interesting thing is that his interest was in my King FOIA suit.

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