

10 February 1975

Dear Harold:

Thanks for the flyers, the issue of Counterspy, the Hersh piece in the Sunday Feb. 2 Times, and also the Goulden piece. I enclose a couple of green ones to cover what I guess to be costs involved.

The Goulden piece: would I be mistaken if I assume it to be the February issue of the Washingtonian? This copy had a note typed across the top from someone named Lilo. Does this mean you want it back? If you do, I can copy here easily and return it.

I missed the Agee interview on NBC, and don't need the tape you mention as far as I know. I'll try to figure some way of getting ~~xx~~ ^{the book} from England but thus far can't think of any one suitable to ask. The bother is in transmitting the money involved, of course.

On your TC40 problem, I covered practically all of the questions you pose some time ago with Mark, who said he really knew nothing about the cheaper brands but that he, personally, would stay away from them because of erratic component quality. Sony, he felt confident, and he personally services Sony equipment, is uniformly better and more dependable. I haven't asked him specifically, but I see no reason to think Sony would make later models with inferior quality built into them. They have too much of a market built up and this is far too big a part of their foreign exchange income for them to take unnecessary risks. So my suggestion, if you want another small machine to serve more or less the same purpose the TC40 has, is to get either another TC40 or its later improved model with the counter. You probably can save quite a lot either at Lafayette or Radio Shack on a comparable machine, but if you can stick with Sony I would do so in spite of the cost because of your need for dependability and versatility. I have no Radio Shack equipment, but have found their tape quality uneven, and they spend too much on advertising to make me feel they don't cut critical corners elsewhere to compensate for it. I have no experience with Lafayette except the general finding that their prices are little lower than Sony and they don't spend as much on advertising as does Radio Shack. I don't think I would get a smaller Sony than the TC40, in spite of the lighter weight, because too much is sacrificed to achieve the smaller size.

We did get the Hunt book, Under-Cover, and I've just finished it. It's good to have it. He seems to share with Nixon a pervasive sense of his own lack of competence and a consequent desperate need to impress others with his abilities. His attitude toward his parents is especially revealing, and no doubt the ~~seat~~ ^{seat} of most of his troubles, plus the fact that he is a born scrounger and climber and self-promoter. Restricted as he is to material which can be challenged if he isn't reasonably factual, his style is curiously wooden.

You may not have noticed: On page 324 beginning 12 lines down there are six lines of type which appear to have been reset in a very slightly different type, perhaps from worn matrices on a different machine. Anyway, it could be a last minute substitution of some kind.

It seems to me that he gets Dorothy on the plane to Chicago and handles that whole episode in a rather foreshortened manner, particularly regarding the motivation and other details of the whole thing which I think I remember from the time.

And the picture of her in the book is the first of her we have seen, and we've been looking from the beginning. How the hell did he persuade an intelligent and warm looking person like her to marry him, do you suppose? Incredible.

Note that he doesn't give her maiden name, which was Wetzel, only her former married name, that of some Frenchman she had met in Shanghai. That must be another story in itself. Also that he has Lisa going to the shrink, not Kevan. Were all the earlier stories wrong?

And I was sorely disappointed not to have some account of ~~xxxxxxx~~ the stroke he suffered in jail. It isn't even mentioned except in the opening statement he made before the Watergate Committee.

So while I'm glad to have the book, I cannot say it is as fully informative as one might be justified in hoping for. Shall we look forward to Son of Under-Cover?

Enclosed is a carbon of a thing I've just done on Mr. Nixon's latest gambit ^{for} ~~the~~ the Op Ed page editor of the NY Times. I'll be extremely surprised if they use it, but thought the effort ought to be made. At your convenience, please return it.

As you probably have gathered, I've not been able to write as much as I had looked forward to doing. I did sell an article to Saga last fall (on acupuncture as a vestigial science) but they haven't used it yet although paying for it promptly. Perhaps it may appear fairly soon, as the editor called a couple of weeks ago, said he'd fired a guy who he claims walked off with it, and asked for a photocopy of my carbon, which I supplied.

Otherwise, I've written only two other things, neither of which made it. One was on our theory about Butterfield being programmed to disclose the existence of the tapes, which made the rounds of several editorial offices, all of whom ~~shrieked~~ sent fairly time-consuming replies from editors who were not about to be dislodged from a comfortable and popular explanation. As soon as Butterfield's current dilemma is resolved I may try reworking it and incorporating still more conclusive material from the WH tapes that have been disclosed in the meantime. I also tried a piece on the 25th Amendment before Nixon resigned, but that also got nowhere, which is just as well. I'm still not too clear as to just why he didn't try "retiring" as President and putting in Ford as Acting President, but feel sure he had excellent legal advice, based probably on the enormity of what he was afraid would become known.

Generally, I've tried to write only when I felt I had an angle that no one else was touching, which is pretty restrictive. Anyway, this is at least evidence that at times I do try.

Best,

jdW