

10/26/71

Dear Js,

Your long letter of the 20th and the copious enclosures could not have come at a better time, for while I've too much to do, I'm really too tired and for me dispirited (always passes off fast) to address any of it requiring close attention.

In summary, you understood well and explain the same way. My purposes in sending you an extra carbon of some of these things are usually to inform you, just so you'll know what you can from them, and also because should something come to pass, you are the ones out there with political understanding and deep maturity to whom a few might turn.

Perhaps it will help your understanding of my concern if I add these things: of all those who can apply for the film, Cyril is the only one who can be really used against what we seek, and he'd most mess it up. He'd likely miss much, but it is of such a nature that, unless contaminated, it can't be messed up. I have the essence already written, and he knows the essence of that. Partly, as I put it explicitly, the Kennedys will be hurt, but my greater concern is that truth be that much more difficult to establish. "obody really believes LHO did it or did it alone any more, so official acknowledgement of that, valuable as that would be, would no longer be a big thing. My fear is that it could and would be used to exculpate those really responsible for what happened once the shorts were fired it not those who did the shooting.

I am in general agreement with your estimate of the odds. It is simply that I feel the potential is so terrible that no odds are long enough. I see what you do not as a counterforce: the need of the lower-level bastards to continue to hide what they did. These are the same as all those in the past have depended upon for their information. So, I think I see both sides, but I also see a terrible possibility, and that we should bring it on ourselves is the worst of all the possibilities.

I have not yet made a direct approach to the Kennedys. I may still. I have spoken to a Senator friend, whose adm. asst was to speak to his counterpart. I've heard nothing and I've not made up my mind whether I'll try further.

Although I was well aware that they might double-cross me, I did not anticipate the magnitude of the really dirty business they pulled on my spit for damages going back to the ruin of our farming and of our health, esp. Lil's. I went to bed a little before 11 last night, got up at 12:30, couldn't go back to sleep, so I dressed and worked until sometime after five, laid down and dozed about an hour and a half, and I've been working since, too wide awake to think of sleeping and too tired for much useful work. I did write the bastard a long letter, of which I made a carbon for you. I will make a record and seek to use it in court. I think it will open the judge's mind, but it also means two more years of wasted time and an enormous amount of new work to do, finding old witnesses who are god knows where, locating new expert witnesses without the funds for paying them, etc. I've made a few slight attempts to interest the ecologists, but they all do and have their own things. I'm getting the notion that with most of them a major part is personal attention.

The Jackson stuff is helpful. I didn't know he had started another book, and the Bingham conjectures contain fact that interests and is new and is inconsistent with his going on the lam voluntarily.

One of the things that I hope distinguishes my work from almost all other is that I am never just talking about the crime committed. I think this was one of the initial hurdles never really scaled. If one adds that to your faithful picture of the national character, you see the magnitude of the problem. Meanwhile, always hoping, I'm finished repaging all the but the last six of the first part of PM and Lil has finished posting, that is, typing for me to burnish in, the corrections in what will be the second. I'll have to work backward from the last pages, where I finished mounting the corrections earlier, because of the flexibility permitted by a planned facsimile on the chance that it

can save a page. A younger man of means is due here Thursday. He is condensing the entire work in the hope of commercial possibility, and if that comes to pass will pay the cost of a private printing of the complete one. This is only one of the reasons I am anxious to get it all done. That is, ready for the camera.

With Cyril, I am aware that I went into great length because I was trying to give him an overall understanding of many things and I wanted him to do his own thinking. He appears not only not to have answered me but not to have consulted any others about the problem. Not to the best of my knowledge, anyway. It is only by means of using him that the paper can be pulled. All the other ways would have to be ruinous to the government. So much so that I think not even Nixon would do it for the immediate gain. And I think that under other circumstances, the DJ bureaucrats would lean on Mitchell enough to block it.

This is a new ribbon. I'll send you the carbon.

So, the danger has nothing to do with whether or not Cyril would flub the job, as I think he would not. The greater hazard would be if he didn't. He might miss much, but the essence I have already given him, and that he can't miss.

But can you imagine how this newest of an unending series of breaches of trust trouble me? I am constantly face with a choice between being a hermit or helping a self-seeker, always in the face of financial disaster. It gets pretty rough sometimes.

Excelsior: I know no one here I could get to translate. That part also interested me, but I didn't get the translation I asked for. I'll hang on until your friend returns. I thought the rest of the Chou comments might interest you, but I confess recalling nothing of what did appear in the papers here.

We also seem to stay pretty immune to colds. Long ago, when I saw the first ad for the Dristan kind of thing, I decided to try the anti-histamine I'm to take for the bites of insects to which I react. Take at the first sign, they are about 100% effective. When I was young I always had both colds and headaches. Now I rarely have either.

Don't ake more time looking for the story on Garrison saying the government had made his DC suit moot. I have enough to cover what I've written and I know it is here, probably just misfiled in haste.

From the files you keep alone I have an indication of how busy you stay. Don't worry about the PH's, and if I do not get the thing printed, I now do have a supply of the two earlier parts and one of the new last that you can always have. I haven't yet sent it to PH and with my Cyril experiences, I think I may not now. It isn't that I don't trust PH, it is that I do not trust those he does.

Whether or not it is Rap Brown captured in NYC, the official stories there, as I get them from Post and radio, are changing. Radically.

Gota get to other things. Many thanks and hopes for quick end to sniffing.