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8/6/72

Dear Js,

Jim's letter of the 30th has gone unanswered for several days. Except when I am in the toils I like to respond to each day's mail each day. This not only keeps me from getting snowed under but some of the correspondence, when it isn't hassle, is enjoyable. The exchanges of ideas with friends is the closest practical substitute for being with them doing it in person. We live in comparative isolation not because we are physically separated from others but because there are few hereabouts Lil likes. And that is not really because there aren't nice people around as much as because, I think as a consequence of her great suffering beginning with the helicopter trespasses at our farm, she tends to not want to be with most people. It almost takes the form of a lack of trust of people. God knows from her recent experiences with a few to whom we were as close as parents she has justification for feeling this way. My fear is that it will discourage her more, that when we do meet the kind of folk with whom she could enjoy being, she won't want to. Anyway, I do enjoy some of the letter-writing.

I'd have like to respond to Jim's comments on the Eagleton flap before the ultimate (really?) decision to see later how my own views and analysis stack up. I am satisfied with Shriver as the substitute but think what happened, even if pragmatic politics, of which I am far from convinced, is a bestiality, the ultimate that grutnity of Manckiewicz' of calling Eagleton a liar on TV after it was all over. First of all, I doubt that Eagleton was deliberately dishonest. His record of the immediate past marks him as a man trying to be honest. and there is a good a chance M may have asked fewer questions than he had intended in the emotion of the time and how as that E could have answered them and forgotten he had.

M is bright but ego-ridden. I addressed him in COUP in ways that may have been edited out. I do not recall, and if I then had nothing to retract, today I wouldn't think of letting it come out. His rejoinder on conspiracy, and he a lawyer, "What difference would it make...The Senator is dead anyway, isn't he" and in between a crack about 7 tattooed Cubans and 11 homosexuals.

If he had gone by the record of the past (Checkers) McG would have sent his coterie of inexperienced dedicated packing and really stuck by the man. He could have been capable of making a plus of it and in time he could have handled it like the editor I cited earlier, or as JFK did in appoint Bobby to be AG. It does take much more than being a good guy to be a good President, or to become one. I now feel more strongly about my earlier views on the need for experience, if from the hacks who would be loyal.

My mind wandered during his last night's pseech, but my impression is that it was pretty good, and I think the judgement that restricted it to a mere mention of Shriver and an opening campaign speech against the administration and Republicans was a cogent misuse of unpaid TV time to a maximum audience for a Saturday night.

Probably I'd have written Shriver the letter I'll be sending had it not been for the incredible gratuities of the prosecutor, but they convinced me I had to do it. I'll also be writing him and I'll be buying the Bremer notebook, which is available to the press for \$5.10.

It is not that my recent experiences with the young have soured me as much as it is that I've had too much experience not to recognize that there are limitations to the basis for decision-making without experience. This is what has worried me about the McG. entourage. Not its intent, dedication and honesty, certainly of a higher order than I can call in any political campaign. They just don't know enough about how to do it, which remains the problem and is accentuated when confronted with the most corrupt press and most uninhibitedly corrupt President and administration. And that, in turn, is part of what worries me even more about the E matter. It represents the kind of timidity that can self-destruct vs such as Nixon/Agnew and the remaining Mitchellisti (they spent yesterday together--so much for retirement).

I don't think Anderson served any master except his own lust, augmented by the ITT attention, his ambition to be so great and to "balance" himself/ He fell far short of what he could have and should have done on ITT, and had he and the press not, we'd nothave a Aleindienst as AG today.

I can't even take the view I'd have taken a month ago on the mental-health aspects because in that time I've had my own depressing experiences, coming from the examinations of some of their records that can't even be described as decent witchcraft. I'll take time for part. When I became concerned about Lil's over-reaction to the multiple distresses caused by the helicopters and the consequent ruin of our farm and what seemed like a better than normal business life in the immediate prespec- we were internationally famous in the field and had, between us, won every major honor in it and couldn't fill the demand of our existing premium market- I tried to consult some. Thing happened to her that you'd not believe in a novel, and they did happen. Now we pay something like \$865 a year for comprehensive medical coverage. I did not then know how inadequate it was and was then more inclined to accept authority in which I had no reason not to have trust.

However, I never dreamed the kind of fantasies that would become medical record or worse, the kind of purging of the records that is now the reality. I don't think it is that the FBI sneaked in and removed what could help us in court because the government is uptight about me in general or this suit in particular, both of which are true. I think, rather, that the medical coop is afraid of what I do not contemplate, a malpractice suit. There are now more than reasonable grounds, but neither of us could bring ourselves to it. Anyway, when we met with our lawyer a week ago Wednesday I got a notion of some of their contents. After Lil had actually collapsed in the clinic's lab after an incredible night in which I couldn't sleep and feared she might be about to die, a night on which for no physical reason her pulse got to 150 as I recall and her temperature to something light 5° above her normal, ~~the~~ the neurologist told me he feared she was having a stroke. She was then semi-conscious, could hardly walk (she shuffled when guided) and couldn't make rational responses (all these records have disappeared) I sought psychiatric consultation. I had an hour with a shrink with her, as I'd forgotten. If I spare you all the details, and there are worse, I'll give you the most comprehensible one. They always ask what you do for a living, etc., and I made the mistake of not saying I drive a bus. So, he has this "diagnosis" that I am delusionary, with a few snide comments about the FBI, etc. Can you imagine what this does to our lawyer's confidence in me alone?

This record they couldn't destroy and the other evil with it. However, it also includes what is close to the trust, that with regard to aviation we both may be "phobic" and Lil certainly is. But no treatment, and this is where the medical people are hungup. They didn't treat what required treatment. I am not phobic about planes, I have never failed to make any trip, have never failed to take a plane that flew because of weather, and I've had some memorable flights in some of the roughest weather imaginable. That one must react to certain stimuli seems to be lost on the average shrink. Anyway, with this encapsulation I express my opinion on the state of the art and my caution to you if you seek help on the anxiety -get somebody who is not himself in need of a shrink, if you can find one. So you can see the possible public benefits of the E business are not as certain in my mind as they would have been without this late-coming knowledge and this new and unnecessary problem with which I now have to cope in some way I haven't yet doped out.

It is really much worse because when in April I sought help on learning more about anxiety, what triggers, how to better cope, etc., the shrink to whom I was sent was never told the reason I was sent there. I didn't detect this until more than half-way thru the hour, when I asked. He said he couldn't help me on this but would approve us for something as yet unexplained, family therapy. I was all for it. Lil didn't agree until I said with or without her. It turns out she was right, that this is but another kind of sorcery that now, we have agreed, is a transparency designed to build a record against a malpractice suit in which we have no interest.

Psychiatry in any form can be an enormous frustration for one who needs such help, partly because it is a difficult field, still more an art than a science and partly what I have become increasingly convinced is largely a fact, that it attracts those who go into it seeking to heal themselves, to avoid the costly fees to others. To my observation, this is clearly true of a large % of the small number I've met. I've heard the most thorough-going condemnations from some of the practitioners...Gotta get to other things. Our best,

