

5 December 1973

Dear Harold:

First, we're taking you up on your kind offer to ask Lesar to Xerox the 22 legal sized pages describing the tapes. Both the Times and WX Post excerpted, unsatisfactorily. We suppose this is one of those basic documents, and I enclose what should take care of the Xeroxing cost and postage. Third class will be fine, no hurry, and do thank Lesar for his trouble.

No sign here of the Fensterwaldfest on Pacifica, as it is not listed in their folio for December. They could run it in pieces on the Open Hour they reserve every few days for late stuff, but up to now we've caught nothing. The fact that Pacifica taped it is not necessarily indicative. They most likely from the way you describe the event, would use excerpts in a show someone will assemble later from the tape. At the time there was no indication here that it was being broadcast live, although that could have happened over WBAI and nothing would have been said here unless it was piped out here. They've spent so much on the Watergate hearings in telephone tolls that they're probably very careful about incurring any unnecessary costs.

Regarding your cryptic notes, we think we have figured out the Ford angle but haven't been able to smell out the other one. Don't worry. We'll find out in good time and would be the last to want you to say anything more than you have. Very good of you to try to keep us filled in, and if we can't read enough of the signs correctly it probably means we overlooked them in the mass of stuff you've been sending. Let's hope your Elfin efforts pan out and that you can do something with it.

We are pleased to note your caution regarding the lady from the beanery, and it will be interesting to see how far this goes, if at all. Had you considered that the fan letters you are getting might also be part of such a possible picture? We appreciate your references to danger.

And in this light, could there be any possible angle to the ~~WX~~ purported Dutton settlement besides the natural desire to clear the books? We don't mean to be seeing things under the bed, but I recall sending you a clip some time back about the new head of a publishers association in New York. He once shared an employer, as I recall it, with a certain author who was widowed just a year ago. In any case, we are indeed glad to hear about the settlement. Good news for a change, and how happy we are to hear it.

No new or profound thoughts on our GL, except we have a stronger impression than every that it's just a matter of getting through one more day after another, improvising and grasping at any useful straw. Joe Kraft said it today in the old Chron: Nixon has got past the stage of worrying about credibility and is just trying to control the release of anything involving criminality. The Woods-Buzhardt-Haig mixup over the 18 missing minutes is typical. Pacifica from Washington yesterday quoted Woods' lawyer, Rhyne, as saying the WH "did a number on her" and that just on the basis of what he's learned already he knows enough ~~of~~ of the tapes "to blow the lid right off the WH." Quotes the new issue of Newsweek.

Best. *John* jdw