

9 Sept. 1973

Dear Harold:

Herewith a wildly assorted gob of stuff, including what we hope will be helpful parts of our file on the San Jose incident you asked about. Sorry to hit you with all this at once, but we're still trying to get ourselves a bit better caught up before the hearings resume. The STM, who does the really eagle-eyed reading around here the while she's sorting and filing, has found herself forced to go back and compile at least a rudimentary chronology, which of course slows up her work because it requires constant insertions and additions as she works her way through accumulated clippings. Anyway, she remains behind in her work. While I'm now current at the moment on reading, clipping and pasting, that state of affairs has been attained only within the past 12 hours and probably won't last long. I've been working outside a good deal, trimming trees, chopping blackberries and poison oak, and also working on the road, which we recently repaved and where we're now trying to open up the drainage ditches and get them ready to line with concrete.

In separate notes I think I've dealt with your various questions except for two: Yes, we will check the mystery writers directory for Leigh James/Hunt the next chance we have, and we'll also keep an eye out for a review of Murray Kempton's book on the Black Panther trial. I'm sure I've not seen one yet.

I want to mention, too, how much ~~app~~ we appreciate the things you have been sending, particularly the material on Hunt and the copy of McCord's article in Armed Forces Journal International. If I omit saying how happy we are to have these things, it's probably because some of them get read and filed before I get around to writing.

When it hits the stands, we'll send you a copy of the October Ramparts. It has at least two articles you'll need. One is by L. Fletcher Prouty, on Watergate as a symptom of the saturation of all government by the methods and morals of the CIA, and another by Andrew Kopkind on the politics of police reform. You know much of what they say, but will be interested in how they handle their material. There are a couple of other articles also of some interest to you -- in short too much to copy when the original will be much more useful to you.

We have no great new thoughts on what goes on, that all being fairly obvious, but are somewhat intrigued by what appears to be a desire by GL to promote the idea that he has altered the tapes. Haldeman recently entered a correction into the record of his testimony, the net effect of which was to draw attention to the fact that he turned back the Sept. 1972 tape to the White House on July 12, the day before Butterfield told the Irvin Committee staff that the WH tapes existed. The implication is that it was wafe for Butterfield to talk about them now that they had been cleansed. ~~TWXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ There have been a couple of other hints that the tapes well could have been doctored. One was a James Kilpatrick column today in the Examiner (I think he's a rightwinger who writes to the Star-News) clearly suggesting that the tapes could have been jiggered. I have not yet been able to explain this peculiar movement, assuming it's true, but feel it strongly enough to draw your attention to it and invite your impressions, if any. The whole dance is reminiscent of Haldeman's maneuvering on the stand to get his "addendum" about the tapes into the record, the success of which was greeted with such keen delight by John J. Wilson. It can't be good.

We enjoyed your account of the visit of your Italian friend ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and his family from New York, and appreciate how much it means to be in contact with such genuine people. We are sorry, of course, to learn that you over-indulged in the pasta, but can assure you that you did not invent this misdemeanor and are merely the latest in a long line of miscreants.

If you care to and remember, the next time you confer with this undoubted authority on pasta, you might sound him out as to how the Italians think they developed such an extensive cuisine in pasta. What I'm interested in is whether they are at all aware that Sinologists have a common theory that the whole idea of pasta was carried back to Italy by Marco Polo, and if not by him then by the Jesuits who followed. The fact is that for nearly all forms of pasta in ~~Italy~~ there are parallel dishes in China. Noodles, of course, in wild profusion, ~~mixed~~ boiled, fried, you name it. There is a boiled noodle dish using a brown bean and meat sauce which very closely resembles the usual spaghetti dish except for the lack of tomato sauce. It tastes very different, of course, but the appearance is fairly close. The most striking parallel is between the boiled or fried Chinese dumpling called ~~Chiaotze~~ Chiaotze (pronounced jow-dzuh) and the ravioli. Again, the taste is vastly different, the Chinese version being stuffed with a mixture of ground pork, Chinese cabbage, Chinese parsley and green onion. This is the Chinese dish which enslaves all foreign visitors, and like which there is nothing in all the world -- except ravioli, which are pretty pale in comparison. The chiaotze is a favorite at Chinese New Year, and the folklore is that the New Year season is the worst time of all for a city to get through a seige. The besieging troops get to thinking about families sitting down to steaming plates of chiaotze, and it follows as night the day that they lose control and take the city by storm in order to get at the chiaotze. This is all very un-Chinese, the classical way being to take a city by trickery or by starving the population into submission, but what can you do? Even starving families will rustle up the requisite chiaotze at New Year time, and nature takes its course. Anyway, I would be interested to know whether your friend has any idea whether Italians actually got the idea of pasta from China or whether they've always had it, as they might well have had. The one thing the Chinese do not have is macaroni, and in which they show no interest. They ~~do~~ even have the ~~mixed~~ equivalent of the Pizza, only they slow-fry it on top of the stove, in sesame oil yet. Yum rpt yum.

We are sorry to hear about the hot weather (the last day or so the local blats say your heat wave has fallen off, at least temporarily) and that it took such a toll of both of you. We've been very lucky this summer. Very few real hot days. We've eaten out on the deck only a few times all summer. Yesterday it got up close to 90 and we feared for today, but by noon a southwest wind sprang up and blew in fog from the ocean, and by dinner time we had to close up the house, it was that chilly. We remember well how miserably hot Washington was in the summer, fully as bad as Shanghai used to be, or Kansas City. I don't know how expensive it is, but if I were living in a regional smog problem like yours I'd at least inquire about the possibility of a small oxygen outfit for the worst times. I believe you can get very small tanks of oxygen, and that even one sniff or two in bad smog can do a lot to help people who are sensitive to it. We see the smog hanging like a blanket over the bay in bad days here, but it rarely gets up this high, for which we are most thankful.

Best from us both,

jdw