

FEB 8 1974

2/6/74

Dear Js,

Your notes of the 3rd and the valuable enclosures came yesterday. Guess this odd way of dating reflects the early hour!

Thanks to my clerical help I had a chance to read it all yesterday and last night plus reading all of the clips from the Post plus Time while awaiting poor Lil, who had a late client who took her and hour and a half overtime.

That these enclosures are so helpful is, I think, a measure of the continuing failure of the Post to cover the news adequately. By now you know that just about all you sent held what these stories, when they appeared in the Post, did not have. I recall only one that the Post carried in full, the short Camp David item. It also had most of the Huff story. Perhaps its Style sections are commercial, but they take up space that should be devoted to news.

Huff reminds me that I wrote Pat Brown's son not expecting him to do anything but on the off chance. Ditto for Rather, with whom I thought there might be other possibilities.

With our volunteer clerk we also have a sort of foster daughter, a very pleasant and pretty young woman who has been here afternoons and last evening. She smiles easily, which is a good thing for us, and is anxious to do anything she can just to be nice. Yesterday I went out to get more wood in and after I had it sawed and took a break before hauling it in she wanted to help with that. By the time I had it all in I was, as a matter of fact, glad that she had served the role I'd have thought more likely that of a boy. Male Chauvenist pig in me, I guess, but what was in my mind in my initial reluctance is that she'd tear her hands on the locust, which was most of what I'd cut.

From the car she drives I suspect her parents are rather well off. From her desire to be helpful in all ways, not just in the work for which she volunteered, I suspect that her parents, in devoting themselves to making money, have not been close to her. And that she misses it.

This week she has prepared most of the index cards for consolidation. Thousands of them, including the planned but not published appendixes and the xerox editions. We have not found the cards to the WW index yet. By the end of next week if not earlier she'll have run these all in together if she spends the time she did this week. I don't expect that to be of great immediate value to me but I think it will be a major research tool in the future.

After this is done she'll index some 2,000 unread pages of FBI reports. I think I'll also ask her to make a separate list of the few from CIA in that haul, the 1970 declassification. Then we'll run that in and probably the perhaps 5,000 cards I've already made to my files. Because beginning at a certain point, about summer 1968 with some backtracking, I started making a card on each document, I'll have a card on most of the documents. Those I have read also show where they are filed so can be retrieved fairly easily. In all it should be a valuable research tool, not only for me.

It has meant a shift in what I do when so I can be free to answer questions. That and the weather and driving the family cab have cut down on my productivity but not on my staying busy. Ice and our skidding off the road yesterday a.m. took two hours. No damage. The inexorable sideways motion did not bother Lil but the jar as we hit the bank scared her for a moment, a measure of the state of her nerves. Her productivity in her work is fantastic, but what hours!

Berkeley and KPFA ^{are} ~~is~~ getting a heavy play on the news here, last night without identification of KPFA, this a.m. with Westinghouse calling it "an educational station" on as long an item as I can remember on that service. The Hearst story and the cop-shooting, separate story, of course.

Rye, your 2/3 re my 1/26/74: your recollection is correct. And it is more than Hal's dependable version. His friend Tom was involved, having driven the Rye's to N.O. and having felt forced to abandon them there. I can't figure how he can afford the calls he makes, which is quite in accord with your suggestion. The O in NO was my idea, however, on the off chance that he'd go see if they are still there. "o word. Your "poor soul" description is apt. e is bright and paranoid. What I'm anxious to see is if he comes up with the identifications of those spook types I met through Christian. e had met Christian at that law office and I'm anxious to get this link to see if it leads anywhere. You know my beliefs about Jonn. He tried a couple of boobytraps on me that I caught. I had suspicions, as did PH, but there were few options so I took the risk, which cost nothing. However, to date, all these strange tyoes together have learned nothing of value from me and only the waif has taken an appreciable amount of time.

Butterfiled- Je's 3/3/74: These are remarkable "coincidences." Of the possible explanations of the repetition of the "mistakes" the appearance of a cloak of legality from the White decision may be the only reasonable one. My own hunch is that this sick man actually did believe the world of the future would hang on his memorable words plus his totalitarian interests.

I had forgotten what you quote from H2085, that GL wanted a "good system." Would anyone believe the Secret Service would install any other? This part is impossible to believe, even if it turn out to be true. They don't even know enough to cushion a mike? Even I made that mistake only once.

As of the time of that instalation, even if they were hung up on Sony, unless the lapel mikes were exceptionally sensitive, Sony had tiny, inexpensive and excellent transistorized mikes, with built-in pre-amps. If I'd had the \$30 to spare, when I saw one in Crabtree's in Dallas, when I was still conducting interviews, I'd have gotten one as a possible booster when needed for the automatic volume level.

I still find it impossible to believe that they made a permanent job of 5" reels.

Scott from KPFA 1/30/74: his performance is still not explainable except as some kind of compelled service and only what there is that can be sued against him is readily apparent. An enclosed clip which you annotate bears on this. "Ford Avoids Look," NYTimes 1/26/74. If you reread the graf following what you marked Ford makes it clear that he is anxious not to know so he can "rely" in Scott and GL. He managed to praise Scott higher. ("Outspoken, Eh?" your comment, on the button!) That the media can hold this down! It is past time for Buchwald to turn Heinrich Appelbaum loose on this or Hoppe (your columns were magnificent, esp. the biblical takeoff, thanks) to do what only he can with it.

Hunt/Writing/The Coven: Glad you got and read and particularly glad your view and interpretations coincide with mine.

Because I am not enamored of her or her philosophy I have never read Ayn Rynd, but I found myself wondering if this was behind his selection of Gault as this name for self. hunt could have had and enjoyed multiple reasons.

Vare as synthesis we agree. The man who first spoke to me about this regarded it as intended to reflect JFK only. Glad of support of what I think is only possible view, as I think it impossible he had only JFK, Jackie in mind. What interests me is absence Bobby in the characterization except as it was intended to encompass all Kennedys.

My now you know this is not his only work on witchcraft. I think he had a combination of motives. For one, it had become camp, that kind of writing. Now the movie. For another to gave him a new chance to blacken his enemies, a new way. He could believe the symbolism, that his enemies were devil-worshippers. Liberalism is devil to him.

Where you refer to how he acquired the knowledge, I think this should be considered with what he uses in the other witching books, hypnosis and medications. Then your point has, I think, more point, and only one probable answer. I would go farther than you where you question whether this could be merely another of his fantasies and believe he has specific spook stuff in mind. They have been heavy on this kind of stuff. Even OSS was.

(My last assignment - we had multiple chores usually- was part of a team to write texts for the coming occupation of Japan. That is, last assignedment as soldier. Rehired as civilian. One of the things we had to read and believe was learned treatises on the Japanese and their alleged hangups. Of these the one that sticks in my mind was some farout stuff from a Harvard or Yale expert on Japense beliefs about eliminating body wastes. I am sure that in SEAsia and Congo, for example, CIA went in heavily for native belief and special interpretations of what they mean.)

JL's comments:Hunt-Shaw, Hunt-SEAsia, China: I'll send him copy.

You should have noted a few not essential Louisiana references in The Coven. The places are relevant. And it is not only Shaw of whom he could have known or could have known personally. He was a Latin-American expert and of the many who passed through N.O. most were from there. He was also in domestic work toward the end. I think this logically had to include assassinations. You know the link I suspect to me on this. And I have written for the second time. Silence in response to the second letter will also be interesting.

There are other queries with regard to his China career. It seems to have followed immediately upon a medical discharge from the Navy that in turn came at a time when the military were deliberately drafting men for limited service. This means pull, accident or he had a serious injury. Or, that he was not fit for vigorous and rigorous duty just before she was assigned to it. From that I would assume that there is a good chance that his China job ~~was~~ was, at least at the outset, not one requiring extensive physical activity or exertion. It could have changed with time and healing.

He could have made himself inconspicuous in China. He could have had an inconspicuous job. He was in OSS and there were enough others who had to know him for him not to be anxious to lie too much about his career then. So, I'm inclined to the belief that he was in China or on China duty. You are probably closer in wondering about the duration. He could have been on the supply end and remained unknown in China and been on it long.

Where you have a real point is our not knowing of any real use he made of the local scene. This is heavy in his devil books. He goes in for it big, so not going in for China is a major observation in analyzing him. Too atypical, as you note. Could you retreat to shrinkery and wonder if unpleasant associations could account for it? Or would that, too, be too out of character? He is a wierdo.

We'll find out if JL knew about the Tai Li end when he sees what you wrote.

CIA Tapes-WG-WH. Chron 1/30/74: Can you explain WxPost's total disinterest in this story, more when you recall its WG hangups? I find it quite unusual and strongly suggestive. What I have heard on radio, TV news has not appeared in the papers I've seen, and that also is not easily explained. Or, the printed press has downplayed this exceptionally.

Even more when it is known that this normal, automatic destruction did not begin until after the CIA was warned not to destroy anything by Mansfield. CBS ticked off the dates effectively. Someone, as my letter to Rather indicates, has tipped them off to anti-CIA stuff that the printed press had at least abundant leads on and ignore. I supplied enough of them and offered more. Remember that Woodward first flipped and then twice would not even look at or listen to our combined efforts on Hunt as CIA assassin. With the Post I offered proof of Hunt/CIA domestic activity and in DC in the summer of 1972. They would not go for that? Not at all?

Here I wish we had better access to the underground papers. I think those in Boston will be covered for me and I'll send copies if I see anything of worth.

Thanks and best, HW 2/8/74

