

JAN 12 1974

Dear Jim,

1/10/73

Sometimes, though separated by the continent, our minds get close. Prior to getting your letter today I decided that the time had again come for me to again make an approach to EMK's people. There has been not a word about it in the papers but the spectro suit is getting enormous professional attention. Two people have been in touch with Lesar on law-review articles, precisely what I had suggested to one of the many Eds with whom I am in touch, this one a young lawyer who also handles publishing cases and clients.

Timing is, as you say, everything.

So are allies.

So is counterbalance to power.

When I use the phrase "intellectual judo" I mean timing, too, so that the power of the adversary can be used against him, even by him, against himself. How to turn it that way is the real question. If it is possible, the timing is exquisitely sensitive. You could not be more right.

In my own way I think I have been aware of this and the fact that the whole thing changed when we were clesseed with the Ervin Wittewash atop ~~after~~ the press coverup and the politicians' nighthailing.

There came a time when I stopped trying to persuade the Post and others to do what has since been proven both right and indispensable. That is when I started to build a case myself. Meaning of what was being avoided that seemed visceral.

With that I have not gone public. This may not mean that it secret and there is no doubt that I have discussed it and perhaps shown the sensitive in what I have had to do openly where I am pointed. The alternative, given my conditions is quitting entirely.

Perhaps I deceive myself, but except for using the normal means of communications I am not being very loud about what I am doing. However, it is known to a fair number in the media, which can be a weakness and should be a measure of protection.

Or, I think to now I have not been rash.

In taking the time you have here you have again helped me and again made me think of what I had not. I read the letter a few minutes after I got it at the post office, while awaiting delivery of a purchase at a warehouse. Thought then and while driving home. (With two 10-foot lengths of 4" pipe sticking out the window while it was sleeting!.)

You are correct in the ~~an~~ assumption of potential "defendants" but I had not thought the successor through. I visualize the possibility of two, each supported by the only asset other than tradition and fear that the first has, the strangelover. I had not thought of hazard from that quarter and the quarter or less he now represents. (I think this lack of support in the ultimate in power is encouraging, and it appears to be the case.)

Perhaps I am casting the wrong feng shway. Note for example that in my letters to McGowan I am asking and feeling, not giving -yet.) And my real objective is not the defendant but those who can make a defendant and show every sign of wanting anything else in preference to it. There is no choice but to oppose force with counterforce, for I have no weight or force. So, I want to be able to enable not be be able to do myself. With a major publisher there might be an alternative. With no publisher there isn't.

With a single qualification I agree it is a "fatal mistake" to push "one or more adversaries into a corner from which there is no normal ~~escape~~ escape." The exception: if there is the means of holding the corner. I know I cannot.

I know your purpose is caution not discouragement. I need it. There still is too much of which I haven't thought. It has just occurred to me that they have more options in an extremity than I have considered because of my other activities and pressures. Spectro is one of these.

I'm going to stop for a memonet for lunch after which I hope to be in touch with Lesar on his draft of the petition cert. Sounds too much like me in a few spots. Basically I think a good job. At one point you mention what I want to supplement, the question of health. The annual checkup has been postponed for no apparent need or reason. Maybe it is just the whim of a troubled man. But suppose it isn't?

The mess he has made of things is his greatest asset at the moment. Everyone is properly worried and most can't really worry about too many things at one time. The Democrats have enough from what has come out and this miserable record and the problems one would once have thought impossible. Many, many thanks for taking the time. Best.

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