

Dear Jim,

9/4/74

Thanks for the tape with your 8/31. You're probably right in saying both great moments should be savored together. I have not read the text yet, either and only in part because I haven't had time. I think it will get me in the mood when I want to write a little more than I have about it.

I also have a notion that he may flip. I think he is suddenly the nothing in his own recognition that he has spent his entire life proving to himself that he isn't. That is the strange thing about this man. He had none of the redeeming human qualities of a Hoover or a Harding or a Coolidge. He is essentially evil and not competent. Otherwise, that is. Nothing except where he is very bad. Sociopath.

Now he is out of it, with nothing to do except force a few calls on those he knows and also nothings but his kind, so they'll be polite.

And there has to be a limit to how many times he can read Six Crises.

Wish I remembered his earlier career better. Only unscrupulousness stands out. I suppose some kind of paranoia is inevitable in red-hunting, where you have to tell yourself it is real to keep going, and that from there other varieties are an easier step. I find myself wondering if he merely made that marvelous lesson of the Checkers speech the reality, that in order to live with himself afterward he had to believe he was the innocent victim, not a crook and a liar.

Glad you are keeping up on his seclusion. I've trouble keeping up with anything now including the grass and weeds even with a drought. I'll not be surprised at some dramatic development prior to his taking any witness stand. He may decide, even at some level below consciousness, that he ought to be sick rather than have to lie when he is no longer President and powerful. If he takes the stand he may be in real trouble.

Especially when indictment is not yet impossible.

I've been pushing too hard to have time to think and it is tiring me. I have a little time before WW IV is out and I've been trying to pick up WG stuff, bits I can do for later assembling, and catching up on other accumulations. But I feel it too much today, more than for several, so I'm going to have to sleep more. At least for a while. There have been particular emotional drags, too. The printer shooting all the negatives a half-inch too long is one. I still don't know when he'll have the new blues ready for me to go over. And that is a drag. I guess it really began with the trip to NYC and its results.

...As I was not certain I made clear, the reason I've included the very rough rough on my newest non-lawyer's move in the Ray case was to keep you updated on non-legal legal methods in a farout case. We have had a great success and I've my next letter to the fiak assistant A.G. in mind if I have not heard from him by the end of the week. My initiative was more important because they could easily have made a case of conflict of interest on Bud and my real purpose was to end that. Which didn't show. Surprising how big Bud's mouth can get when there are feet around, generally his own.

Everybody's laziness except Jim's and his willingness to listen and his ability to learn from experience are really what has made this possible because if he had not been both industrious and willing nothing would have happened. I am aware of the need others may have for a coup. I've one of my own in mind and I sold Jim on it last night. More in time. It can offer the possibility of our getting back what we've put into this is it is first possible and then works. A civil suit for James is what I've seen, a new possibility that Jim has agreed goes no farther than the two of us if we don't get the all-around agreements I've stipulated. It can help James very much aside from paying bills and laying some aside for new bills. It can be as significant influence in the criminal case.

Thanks for the good wishes on WW IV. It has been at the printer's for about two weeks now. Like everything else, there was just too much more waiting for the time it should have had. That's the way it is and has been with the WG book. Think I'll read the clips with time before supper. Thanks much for them. Best,