

Dear Jim,

4/9/81

Great bay leaves in your letter of the 5th.! Many thanks, Didn't know you had a bay tree.

The newest turn in the Reagan flackery is to make him put to be superman, with all the talk about his spectacular recovery, er, that is, the one that had been hoped for but he didn't really have.

Maybe his people are still dominated by their campaign fears of his 70 years, so they try to pretend his body is only 21. I think it is in bad taste and doesn't do him or anyone else any good.

There was a little more -very little - in the WxPost for 4/4, and it raises still more questions. I'm to get a tape of the FBI's interview of last Friday and maybe I'll learn more from it.

A reporter friend who covered it and taped it says the FBI just lied, brazenly. He may have had in mind no more than its claim not to have any "devastator info."

In addition to the difficulties with the official story on which we both agree I'm now having some trouble accounting for all the known shooting with six shots, the limit of the pistol.

There is the window across the street and two direct hits on the limousine. I saw both the first day. (The door was open. One hit it, one the window.) This is three shots. One more for Brady, one for the SSman and one for the cop account for all six without Reagan. So they say he was hit by a ricochet. That appears not to be likely because the direct hit on the door was when the door was open or more or less at a 90 degree angle from him.

The FBI can do the necessary kinds of identification work fairly rapidly. They reported the spectro. info in the JFK case the same day they got the specimens. However, they are not always as fast as they can be. The work in the King case was not dated until the day Ray was charged in Birmingham or for about two weeks. Yet without any doubt at all it was done much earlier, probably the first day.

The story about the FBI knowing nothing about the Devastators is not easily believed. Even less easily believed is its account of the slowness in obtaining samples from the Georgia manufacturer. Not by mail or phone but by SA going there and putting what he got on a plane. They have been talking about days in getting the samples.

I'd not heard of people looking up and didn't notice that myself. I did try to listen for the character of the sounds as I saw and heard reruns. All the seven I heard - and I originally thought six only - were the same kinds of sounds and of the same amplitude. They were all light sounds, like .22s. None sounded like a rifle. They appeared also to be about equally spaced, in time, and pretty rapid firing.

If the FBI knew nothing about the Devastators, it did have all those specimens for testing and it has said nothing at all about its tests or their results. Instead it is hiding behind the gag order the government asked for and got re the search warrant while lustily leaking the most prejudicial information that was seized under that order. This may be the FBI's way, but why? Why now, in this case? Hard not to believe to cover itself and its shortcomings.

But are they really shortcomings and no more? The lingering questions about the facts of the crime do remain.

There is the separate spectacle of the undiligent press, which hasn't asked any questions about these matters and could have resolved some on its own. The number of shots from the videotapes, etc.

So little in the papers the last few days I've not clipped for Dave. Nothing of

any real value, unless one attributes historical value to Reagan's getting a new supply of jellybeans and some chocolates from the King of Morocco plus a goldfish from a little boy who named it after ~~him~~ Reagan. Naturally he swims around in a former jellybean bowl.

Not much new here. Yesterday I did more than any day since returning from the hospital. Not really much but for me, now, quite a bit. Today I feel a little tired but rain guarantees I'll not do any outside work. It started as I was about to start.

~~First~~ First I tried chopping wood- branches- while using the wheelchair. Works. So next I tried the tractor, with the trailer, to bring cut firewood uphill and get it ready for stacking. I found that by parking the trailer a short distance from the food and thus having to walk some the foot did not swell prohibitively. And although I was careful not to load the trailer heavily when I'd be pulling uphill (so the tractor would not rare up and rare back) I did get a fair amount of year after next's wood up. I sold some poplars that needed harvesting, to get the man who would be taking them out to use his backhoe to fix the dam that feeds the pond) He can do it weekendsonly and each of the weekends since he cut the ~~xxxxx~~ trees, it has rained. So he's not come for the logs and I have to get the wood up as best I can.

While I did very little there is a real feeling of satisfaction from it because I was able to do that much.

Actually, the grass could use mowing in some places, that is the kind of crazy season we've had.

Crocuses and drawf iria have come and gone. Jonquils and narcissi coming on fine. It is getting beautiful.

And I'm satisfied that I did the right thing to cull those poplars (tip's, or really members of the magnolia family, which are brash and were damaged) because when the logs, firewood and brush are gone, it will look ever so much better. Of course it will mean a problem, that more will grow and require mowing, but somehow that'll get done.

Had to take Lil to the bank, so we decided to do some shopping for shoes, now that I require a much larger one on the left foot. We went to the largest local shopping center and after I'd seen what I can get Lil went off for some of her own shopping while I decided to use the center mall, where she'd see me easily, for walking. I was able to do about twice as much without stopping as in the past, since hospitalization. I guess in part because it is flat, no hill like in my lane. I'm pretty well adjusted to the pain, so it really felt good to be able to do that much. I believe that with warmer weather permitting it, I'll gradually be able to do more. . . .

I've been telling Besar that there are time when a man must anger and that when on extremely rare occasions he has lost his temper he was very, very effective. He is naturally expressive and becomes more so without inhibition or restraint. Well, although I didn't counsel that he loose his temper in the King case calendar call on the 6th, he did, and with more than ample justification. He also raised his voice a bit. (I'm very sorry I wasn't there because of the potential of what he let loose that I would have undertaken to use and now must get back to doing in a different way.) He was disconsolate when he told me about it by phone that evening. The judge was vacillating again and was remaining indecisive. He lost himself over an incredible breach of FDIA. So he told the judge just to rule against us on everything and we'd go to the court of appeals and we'd be back with a memorable remand and we'd get the six-year case closer to an end after all that delay than it is now. She got up and walked out. Next day he had a call from her clerk, she'd like to see him that afternoon. I told him to be apologetic over raising his voice but to stand firm on all else. I told him that nothing would happen because nobody dared make issues of any part of the case. She showed him the last 4-5 pages of the transcript and he said, "You get better service than we do." She smiled and said that in some ways judges have a little influence. After he read those pages she told him he shouldn't have, said she liked him too much to refer the matter to the proper committee, and then they just chatted, with her dropping some things of great interest to us. Including that she wants us both to get paid.

R. A. - H. A. M.