

10/28/81

Dear Jim,

Howard phoned me Sunday. He went into the hospital Monday for a tonsillectomy. Scheduled to get out Wednesday. We talked a long time. First time since your lunch. He was tremendously impressed with you. He also said that you had been very helpful to the other person, was it the writer? Their need, if any, and if I understood it correctly, is for one cued in to the present China. There are some unresolved matters they think China is holding back on to be able to use instead of something else in the ~~XXXXX~~ event they want to end the project. Like artistic control.

I've heard nothing further from Marina. I wrote her a few days ago asking her to let me know if she has changed her mind and if not, to get cracking if she wants to get what she says she does. This silence could come from a number of things, ranging from her change of mind to cracks from some of the right-wind nuts to her misunderstanding of the Lesar-Fensterwald relationship. She hates Bud. Not entirely without cause, either.

Your analysis of her situation is remarkably accurate. I held that belief early, and in more recent years have obtained documentation of it. I regard this as of sufficient historical importance to have established a separate file on the pressures on her. What is interesting, however, is her recent willingness to be critical of officialdom, even if of the past. For she is not a citizen. She could have been and opted not to be.

She is quite independent in her thinking as well as her acts. For example, although she is divorced from Porter, she still lives with him, refusing to get remarried. The children also live with them.

She is, as you say, essentially stateless, and I can only wonder why she did not get naturalized, I do not think anyone would give serious thought to deporting her.

Details of the support of your house are interesting. Those carpenters did quite a thing to replace such heavy members in so short a time. Until I got out to Cal. I'd never seen or heard of such construction. Certainly made use of otherwise useless space and provided some dramatic views, as I remember you have from the large livingroom window.

Our drought also has broken, the rain just ending, but I don't think the water level is up to normal. Unless we get more before the winter freezes there will be an inadequate supply of ground water come spring. Once the ground freezes, the water runs off.

I'm afraid you are right about what can happen now that Sadat is gone and Reagan and so many of his clones are in power. We can only hope that the dedicated wrong do not go as far as their big talk indicates they intend to go.

Not much new here. We are both OK, if with colds, my first in many years. Mil's is a bit heavier and much more uncomfortable. I haven't minded mine much. She has lost her voice but as of last night it was beginning to return.

The future of FOIA appears to be bleak. Those who want to support and continue it have never learned how to fight effectively against its enemies. And, of course, the last thing the ideologues of the right want is an effective act that can let what they do become known. There now is a limit to what I can do, more so when help isn't wanted or believed to be needed.

Our best,

