

9 Nov 71

Eventually she gets around to filing, and usually finds bits of unfinished business.

Yours of 10/18 (so - "eventually" was the right word). Vantage Point: that morning you had heard on radio news that NYTimes apparently had said he (LBJ) had used some of the Pentagon Papers sealed by court for "national security," and you asked - if we still had it - for a copy. Don't have it. It's possible, but not very probable, that I missed it. Two possibilities: it didn't appear in the edition we get, or it was in the Sunday issue, which we don't get at all. Oct 18 was a Monday, so report could have been from Sunday edition. That batch of papers, as it happened, was piled up to be disposed of, so it was simple to check Oct 16, 18, 19. Not there. Might have been on the back of something already clipped, but I look on the back before clipping. I really don't think I could have missed it.

In same letter you ask if we have any recollection of Gene Roberts' reporting from Dallas. No, we haven't, in terms of connecting any particular story to his byline. (Our files are by subject, sort of, and we've had occasion to regret it, but we're stuck with it now. We do have cards which serve to cross-index some of the main files, but had to discontinue it I think in the summer of 1967, just couldn't keep it up. Now, when it seems necessary, I stick a memo in a folder as a reminder of something filed elsewhere. We have been able to continue with a record of magazine articles and books, by author, source and date, and in this connection if you see an ad or review of a book, say, we'd appreciate having the details - author, title, publisher, date.) Back to Roberts. Jimmy had a bad, bad headache today and spent some time in bed, and to make sure he'd be able to sleep I did some quiet work, so it was a good time to check the Dallas stuff. Nothing bylined Roberts.

Note written 24 Oct, in which you ask if we'd be interested in tapes you might make of intvs such as one you'd just heard with an American doctor back from China. Of course we would, in theory, but it would cost you time and effort and - apart from the problem of finding the time to listen to it (I've had to erase tapes I've made which Jimmy hasn't been able to hear) - you might be duplicating what we've heard here. KPFA has carried a great deal on China, especially post-ping-pong: intvs, discussions. But we thank you for the thought, the offer and the willingness.

Note, 10/24. You had heard morning Mutual news which had story saying one of JER's former lawyers had said he didn't care about getting caught because he expected Wallace to be elected and pardon him, Wash Post had nothing on it and you asked that if we'd seen anything to send you a copy. Nothing here. But I do remember something to that effect and perhaps also heard it on radio. But have nothing in print, in our files.

Your letter 10/31/71, last page: "Lil has long been after me to isolate myself and just work." As Jimmy said in his letter of 4 Nov, we agree. My question would be, with Ned as a for-instance, can you afford this kind of help in terms of what it costs you in time, energy and emotional strain? That isn't to say I wouldn't have been tempted and wouldn't have accepted, because I think I might have. (How easy it is to give advice, especially when you know how something turned out.) That isn't to say, either, that you shouldn't accept help, but - well, I was going to say that since you're the one who knows what help is needed it should be on your terms, but in Ned's case that was pretty well spelled out in advance, wasn't it?

I cut out two paragraphs because on re-reading 10 Nov they didn't make much sense. No loss.

What I was trying to say was, do your own thing yourself, you can be proud of it. It's harder without help, but you eliminate the possibility that someone helping you won't, with the best motives, do the wrong thing, and you'd certainly save the time watching out for this.

I'm having trouble putting on paper what's in my head (it's much clearer there), but I'm getting sleepy and dopey.

Same letter; remainders, Marboro. How did Marboro sell every copy without listing? Were they all taken off their hands by one interested party?

Undated note, with mailing postmarked Oct 28? - illegible postmark. Noguchi. You say one of your young friends (the one doing a study of the press) says Noguchi is ex-coroner now. What our files show is that he was reinstated 31 Jul 69, but nothing to show he was fired later. If you can remember sometime when you're talking to this friend, would you ask him about this? If we missed it we'd like to have for the file the reason given for the dismissal, the date, some reference, possibly copy of clipping.

This reminds me: I made a note to check something you referred to in copy of postscript to a letter with no indication to whom it was addressed; came in mailing postmarked 24 Oct. Anyway, it concerned the Blehr/Wolfer thing and you were asking for a copy of DistAtty Busch's full statement. Didn't think we had it; checked; don't have it, only a few quotes from Busch at press conference 18 Oct, which you probably already have.

10 Nov 71

Didn't mail today. Had expected to have time before getting Jimmy off to work to make copies to be included. Didn't make it.

Later

Your note, undated, rec'd in mailing with illegible postmark (28? Oct), about Post story on NYC police graft. You asked to have clipping returned and it was, without Jimmy asking whether I'd read it. Had not, so I don't know the particular angle you're interested in. NYTimes carried pages and pages and pages on it but this was a subject I thought I wouldn't bother with, and didn't even skim. HOWEVER, most of those papers haven't yet gone to the recycler, and will hold them until we hear if you want those papers clipped. So let us know. No big problem since most of the stuff is on full pages, but here and there I may have clipped something on the back.

Saw tiny Jenifer for a few moments today. A beautiful child, with delicate features and a sweet, secret smile. I smiled a secret smile at her, knowing who has a personal blanket in the works. She's found she can stand if she has something to hold on to, but finds it very aggravating when she can't remember the procedure for sitting down again.

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