

AUG 2 1972

Dear Js,

8/1/72

Smith of the Post(s Potomac called me again tonight. We spoke for going on two hours this time. When he called the first time and showed every indication of doing the story on me rather than the "Can Mr. Weisberg Translate" bit, from the kinds of questions he was asking it was clear we'd be going over my past. It is my presumption and his word that it is for his understanding, not for use, so I was open and fairly full. Because I have never sat down and written all of this, I taped it. That is, some of it. On the first cassette I forgot I was taping it and it ran out, things like that. Same on the second, because I had no special purpose in taping it, just to have some of this biographical material all down. As of now, with all I've missed, it is 1 1/2 hours. Goes into my OSS past, the farm and its ruin, things like that. Some of the (non)publishing history. I'll probably put these tapes aside for the limited purpose above. I don't suggest you should hear them, but if you can anticipate a period of boredom and would like to, let me know. I don't think you will, so I'll take no answer as no interest.

He says he does want to come up and he says he'll call me again, probably tomorrow (when I have to go into town and sneak home some kind of present for our anniversary day after). If he doesn't come up, I find myself wondering what he will do for pictures in a magazine heavy on pix.

A responsible treatment at this time could be helpful. Can one dare hope?

I've spent most of the day in an unhappy task of commenting on the draft of the habeas corpus petition for Ray. This whole business is getting so completely disgusting I may have to break that off, too. Bud personally has made my spotion intolerable, which is not new. I go out and without pay keep doing the close to impossible and bring it all back on tape and they just go ahead and ignore it and prepare their damned thing without it. So what the hell do you do with an investigation for an ~~habeas~~ habeas corpus petition if the petition is drafted without consultation with the investigation or the investigator? I'm trying to be polite, but I fear a bit of my deep resentment creeps in.

After drafting this petition, Jim Lesar, the young lawyer who did it, came here three different days, listened to the tapes as we dubbed them, and was quite impressed. On the last trip he left me a copy of his unrevised draft for comments.

My resentment is multi-faceted. It took me a year to get Ray to ask Bud to be his lawyer. I did this without ever meeting, talking or writing to him. I had Bud's agreement to three narrow preconditions as a prerequisite and he has kept none of them. I gave them their client, their case, their original rough legal work (I've got the carbons), and they have in all this subsequent time come up with nothing on their own. My Memphis investigation after F-U was really sensational. All but one witness on tape and an anticipated refusal had me have a witness with me. I've got even exculpatory pictures Bud wouldn't pay for! And now when there is so much I should be doing I have to go over a wrong draft and find that this truly great stuff I came back with in May hasn't been mentioned. Whether they will now include it or not I neither know nor care. I'm on page 22 and haven't come to a single citation of law, so the drafting was not rushed because of the press of legal research. I'm more than half way through it. Much of this is entirely wasted, and it was a stupid approach to think of preparing it without going over what I'd gathered expressly for it. What they then and now said is great. Can anyone work this way? Is there any wonder I seem irascible and short-tempered? Anyway, I'm making a second carbon if it interests you. And with this one I'm laying down the law. This will never happen again. It has happened too often. And it is an approach that I just can't find excusable. I was told when I asked that the stuff done would be legal work. This is a recap of parts of FRAME-UP with remarkably little added, and not a particularly wise job of it at that, with some stinking psychology about which I have to be diplomatic, or try. So, if the earth shakes out there and you hear a loud noise, it will not be Mt. Aetna, it will be the "berg" part of me going up!

Smith was on the phone till ten, so now I'll quite, go to bed and read the remnant of the black left thing.

Bill made a simple but pertinent comment that tells the whole story: Eagleton came out of it better than anyone and everyone, a respectable man with his own self-respect and I suspect enormous public sympathy, except from the pols, new and old, and now that it is anti-McG and safe and Hurst McG, I predict of the press, too. Best.