

12/30/72

Dear Js,

The bug lingers, and with it fatigue that rises and falls, with a little adrenalin sometimes helping. Got great mail service today. Was out of stamps, so the carrier brought them and the mail to the door and gave me the mail. It included Larry's and Rife's enclosed letters, The Plot to Kill the President from Larry, and your second 11/24 with goodies not yet looked at. What's wait for the ebbing of the adrenalin.

Before I forget, maybe I sent Kissinger's press conference. It is not in my K file. I could have it under other subjects. If you do not have by the time you get R I'll check all other possibilities. I also may have laid it aside in two stuffed large envelopes for HR.

Chinese cooking. Lil, voiceless, managed a few chuckles, audible. We have only emergency gas and that in a cabin on the other side of our property. Can't afford anything now anyway. How is it with charcoal? I got Lil a nice, small bowl burner, not an hibachi. She never has used. When we were younger I did the broiling, with plumbers' charcoal in an authentic small, antique cast-iron foreplace pot I rescued from her grandpa's chicken yard, on the kitchen windowsill in the black gatto in which we then lived. I would imagine that if it didn't choke the charcoal, this small burner would give an intense heat once I had it going. But it will have to wait. Maybe by the end of the tax season I'll have caught up with some of the crooks and will have a few bucks to spare.

Since I wrote you about Der K's frequent and needless use of the N name, I think it was CBS' Marvin Kalb who I heard say the same thing, on one of their year-end roundups.

I disagree (and how I welcome a chance to, we usually see so eye-to-eye!) that K can't quit. I think he can and if he isn't allowed to go back and settle on something close to the rather good deal for N that he worked out will. N can't stop him and I think it would be too dangerous for some self-starter to kill him. It would look bad for N if not handled well, but Henry could drop the SuperKraut pose, say it has exhausted him, time to follow N's advice and get fresh blood and new ideas, and he longs to return to the beckoning Ivy. I agree it would look very bad for N to fire him. It is too soon for him to start that vigorously on what I think he really plans, a fundamental change. I do hope he is impatient, timing being one of the few things that can frustrate him. The press sire as hell won't try.

I do not recall noting TopBrass unhappiness but regard it as a +. Any nukes would be, I think the thing that could unite the rest of the world against us and the economic havoc could undo the Nixonians, unless they want to undo the whole world with the Big Nukes.

You say of Asian land war "supposed to be avoiding." One of the little gems I've been saving for TIGER is another Purloined Letter: everyone missed it. This is pretense. It was one of the startling things that changed JFK and his learning of the deliberately plan NOT to avoid it is the one time in his career I know of him being speechless. Tupid Twining laid it out: entrap the Chinese into attacking US forces in Asia. They go after them. This, of course, was before they had nukes.

Mutinybis not vergin (pun). It has happened. Only a little has been reported. I mean refusals, not just fraggings.

We see eye-to-eye on B52s and losses, except that more than half are in SEAsia, as what I've mailed shows. This can't last. They'll be afraid of all those Bears in the Pentagon. We admit the loss of 10%, I'm sure it is more, and at some point there will be a pilot reaction or a changed policy. Lick we give them another chance to bargain "seriously". If and when, I'll bet they are tougher!

At the present rate, in less than 10 weeks there would be 100% B52 attrition.

Last night Saxbe and Brook on TV showed the visible GOP iceberg of opposition. Bet our GOP senator joins, one way or another (he sponsored Tonkin resolution rescinding).

It had been my hope the Post's people would have what the Times didn't. I've been sending, generally without reading, all each day.

Just heard a flash on radio from White House. Read 'em and weep. We read 'e, and we weep while doing it. The bombing, rumored for two days as a New Years letup, is off and the negotiations are on again and K is to go to Paris.

Sorry the envelopes I've been sending are so stuffed. I have but few of the legal-sized, can't afford to buy any, and got this size dirt cheap, something like 1/4¢ each, and LOTS at that price.

Without knowing what went before the letters with O&D may mean nothing, but I felt I had to send a copy to the postal inspector, who has long been silent, so I made an extra. David's figures are today less than half the cheapest I could get when he refused to produce them I told him toilet paper and chewing gum is not sewn binding. I have no count yet. Bes