

MAR 3 1972

3/2/72

Dear Js,

Re Joy 27s, many thanks for everything, inc. stamps. With the gas I had to get after yesterday's trip to DC and other essentials, I came home from town with a roll I had just gotten and \$2.00! So, ~~but~~ I'll give 'til the roll and when she wants a stamp she'll not have to come to my office to get one. We have been working that close. This time of the year she has little to mail compared with other times, save when she pays bills, etc. But because she has no 8s this a.m. I got back a book I'd mailed on which she'd put a six and I was supposed to add an 8 and forgot.

Je's Constable: please don't waste any further time on this. To the degree one can be certain, I've decided who this is, one unknown to you and never met here, meeting all the intellectual and scholarly pre-requisites (Not Thornley, as I'd first consider possible), and when he first called, time coinciding, I either erased by re-use or mislaid the tape I finally began to make as he blabbed about the former connection he claimed with intelligence, translations of USSR intercepts re U2s, RB47s, etc. However, I remain with your fascination with constable part, same unfirmable feeling of childhood recall, and one other interest: this would make a helluva political novel, told essentially as it happened, and I have an editor friend who agrees and has a collaborator in mind, if he ever gets to where he can find time. Fact is that yesterday I mailed a letter reminding him that I hope to be in NYC soon and if this guy could still be interested, how about arranging a meeting? The timing would have been perfect if he had arranged this when I first proposed it. As a kid I was pretty good on features and my instincts for what can appeal seem to be reasonably good still, but the business has become unimaginative beyond my power to describe.

Clips: don't fret or stay up if I ask the return of something I've not marked. If it is really important, I'll mark it. One of these, from the mark I put on it, I know is what I wanted, and not for the Hughes file but for that on handwriting analysis. Realize this is the only real link between Oswald and the planted rifle, and the paper alone is enough to raise questions.

Before I forget, the enclosed carbon of a letter to my youngest friend talks of two shows in which I think you'll have interest. I will try to tape the CBC one in particular. Now I have a good supply of 90 cassettes and a few 102s and I'm saving those with audio-sensor, but I need 60s, so today a local store which takes Bankamericard has some cheap ones on sale, and despite all those resolutions, I'm going to get some, at 5-¢ each, which is pretty damned cheap. So, if I send you any such, don't spend a quarter of that returning. I've gotten my VOM back, and it is not working well, but I can use it to run each tape through while I'm doing other things, so I'll know if any one hangs before using. Reasonably good chance of it, anyway. I'm also going to try to dub off one I have on a Sony, of Lattimer. Glad to get the note you don't want the tape I made for you for that tape is now in the machine, should I get a call of which I want a cassette. Don't expect, but keep it ready.

The one advantage of Lil's working, aside from the ~~sov~~-belly (it ain't bacon) she brings home is that I have the mail early, can address it and then have relatively uninterrupted time for mail. I do enjoy your letters for a number of obvious reasons = the fact that you are the only ones of our age with whom I exchange ideas.

Jim's on Pacifica: I think we crossed on that, with my reporting what Bill Stein told me. He may be faceless to you, but he has tried to be a good friend to me. He was with SCLC and has experience raising \$\$\$ there, and he is with the foundation, and separately agrees with everything you said. He disagrees with you on news, believing that at KPFA is not nearly what it should and can be. Agrees on Thompson, too. It may be that there is something wrong with Lee but I'm inclined to the view that this is the way such groups and people worked years ago and it is possible for me to conceive it as the norm today, esp. where there are such problems. But I'd have to agree that this is the craziest kind of format for such a station. They also have nuts, one running one of their best talk shows at WBAI, a really arrogant bastard, but very popular and airing good stuff, esp. in an area where there is little of it and many people. Josephson or Jacobson, something like that.

Je's longer 27, all noted. On Ray, I've updated with carbons, etc. The announcement, if that it was, was also attributed on the 7th to the Commissioner of Corrections, Mark Luttrell. It was the fifth. I am increasingly coming to believe he was truthful in saying he didn't do it. I wanted to get other opinions, so I let other things go yesterday when I was in town and showed them to Paul Valentine, who covered the minitrail for the Post. I'd hoped Ben Bagdikian, who has just done a swell series on jails and had himself committed for a while to do it better, might evaluate, but he was away. Paul agrees that the kind of thing Ray says is possible and recalled several visits to a local maximum-security jail where it was not uncommon for it to take a half-hour to find an inmate in whom he has interest. They can't and don't keep track, so Ray could have been where he says an unless another prisoner saw him, not be able to prove it - if another prisoner's word would be taken. Add to this the timing-immediately followed by the long-delayed and adverse decision on his appeal and the interest in something happening to him and it all fits and gives him credibility. plus the warden has not answered my letter.

Don't return Wash Monthly. In fact, I think you should not worry unless I make for retron, and as my files get less organized as they get more diffused, I think I'd best mark on them where I want to file on return.

China: where I haven't sent Post, it is because what they carried was on no special content. I may also send some that turn out this way if I get too busy to read. I've been reading them since N went there, to date. Several friends who get the Times tell me that when they are here and see the Post they see what the Times does not carry and that in some areas the Post is more honest! What this says ~~from~~^{for} the Times!

Glad to understand about the bookshelves. What made me wonder is that nothing seemed to be vertical, and I wondered if he had in that room largely boxes mms.

I'm not without doubt that these events are irreversible. However, I also now think it provides a cover for more severe repression at home. What you attribute to Allen Jackson was inherent in much TV coverage and some independent radio I heard. The last rubbish I heard was Lisagor on the Vanocur NEF special of which I wrote. I'm going to watch their daily listins through this period. We spend little time with TV, save for the net news. So we dongtcheck the daily skeds often, esp when 'il is working.

I agree with your describing some of this as a tropism. It is a returning rather than a turning, and it also tore tissue, as you've have agreed, I think, if you saw while you heard some of the reporting I did. The fact is that in cont xt there was remarkable little of this sneering and sycophancy, if any is too much. Many did do straight reporting and for the most part the slurs were restricted to reporting regimentation, etc.

Bandung(?) principles

I agree on five ~~princs~~ evaluation. I think I commented on it earlier. I think in retrospect we can assume more than you seem willing to. I see it was first Pandung, which is what I recalled. Let me note that there was a mysterious explosion in the plane carrying a Chinese delegation to it, then widely attributed to out spooks. What a difference, huh? I agree there is little chance we'll practise it and less than the general public will come to understand it, it is of enormous significance elsewhere, and I think this may be more than just your "western eyes" formulation that follows. I think this will include much of Western Europe, too. Agreed on rearranging regional matter that can follow. Note returns yesterday's Jamaican election, not noticed in my hasty perusal local paper. May be in Post, which I've not yet seen. On what could be expected at this stage, I'm willing to go farther than you seem to and think we have gone farther than you seem to. My wonder is to the GL and his entourage realize how far they have gone? If I'd sent you carbons of my earlier letters to Howard you understand that some time ago I felt the domestic problems are what GL find insoluble and that they are worse than we've been permitted to know. Not being able to do anything about them, he had urgent needs. This was the only direction in which he could go T us C could hold out for and actually get more than N has been willing to give. Not because N sees the world, and its needs, or cares. His are present and urgent needs. I think if he is re-elected we'll see repressions like we've never dreamed of experiencing.

On Taiwan I take a more optimistic view or make that kind of interpretation than you do. I believe I wrote a bit on this earlier. Not in terms of expectable or close to immediate performance. But technically there is a decent and acceptable agreement. It may be years after Chiang has gone, I sincerely hope, to the reward he has earned. It is more than the mere opening of a door by a crack. It is recognition and a policy that can't now be changed so far as China is concerned, and the rest of the world, or here without the most serious upheaval. The treaty, as I recall it, is not mandatory anyway, so we can't even retreat to that. The problem that will be exploited by us, as elsewhere in SE Asia, goes back to how Allen Dulles hornswoggled JFK, what will do do with all those people (ref to Bay Pigs)? This the right can and will use and use hard. Unless some refuge is found for them or some kind of accomodation made, this will delay things long.

As it turns out, I was right in saying China would do nothing about SVN. I regard the report of the HonkKong Standard as no more than a kind gesture by C. There was no chance C would or could do anything to help N with any of his SEAsia problems, and I think it impossible there is any implicit, explicit or inherent anti-USSR understanding, tho they seem to feel otherwise. Nor do I think they'll do anything at the UN they would not have done or the opposite. I think their policy will be unchanged.

However, I think that this also makes SVN less of a problem for Nixon. He'll have most of our men out by election, has already reaped a big harvest, and while I don't think I can make a fair estimate of what policy will be after the election, I think this does make it more difficult to reverse policy or increase such activity elsewhere. We have to get out, and I think even the military, for the most part -everyone ~~extremexthex~~ except the extreme of the right, recognizes it.

Your Nixon-On-His-Knees to the rest of the world (again, not just "Western Eyes"), agreed, too. I think you could have emphasized this more. I think after the elections, this will be better understood here. The Democratic reaction has been insane.

It was no real trouble to give you my reading on the TV coverage. It was almost non-existent on what I could say of ABC, but they are lightweight, minor compared to CBS, NBC, and I simply can't stomach Smith, who left CBS because he could not in his own eyes be honest there. He is worse than anyone on CBS ever was.

Bill Shea. Don't take any time. I think he is some kind of nut, but the whole thing is provocative. Right one in Woodacres. My offer of copying was on chance he had been involved in anything that had come to your attention, for I knew he was closeby from postmark and zip.

Kuttner: I think highly of him. However, when he didn't come here, before the time he had said I'd changed my mind about wanting to say anything. I sent word to this effect via Bill Stein, who was seeing him Monday. Unless there is to be pay for it, I'm not interested in writing or saying anything on the subject until there is something major or put together in detail. I think I can with some safety assume I've frustrated more than I could have expected to by staying behind the scenes, and if it changes, well, we'll do what we can. I do expect more in other areas, not medical. I've laid foundation possible, including in Vawter letter in ways I think you could not understand. I can go to court, a last resort, almost anytime and if necessary, would, immediately. I have long been hoping to be able to file a tort action to expand FOI concepts and with what I now have from Graham have a better chance. Also, their reaction to my button-pushing, as in changing regulations ex poste facto, each to cover an illegality and each to my personal damage.

Thumb prognosis. Use. X-rays normal on bones, rest can't be read until scar tissue down, expectation three months. I'm to see ortho surgeon again then. No forecast surgery, no forecast return more use of it, no sweat if it stays this limited way, if slight but annoying discomfort disappears. The fear of the general practitioner that there might be no trouble breaking the still-swollen joint is not shared by this guy, in whom I'll have greatest confidence, based on long experience with him. So, me for the woodchopping again when the weather permits. We are in out third straight 70= day-and I have a 20" pile of now after that at the carport! Ground too wet for it now, but after lunch, if it is not

raining, I'll put boots on and pull honeysuckle. Forecast is for thundefstorms. My own, based on my pre-daylight hearing of Chicago weather, is that it will soon return to seasonal cold. Effective temp there 4 a.m. 10 below, actual I think about that above, with strong winds accounting for spread.

Ross Terrill is the guy CBS or NVC was using. I may have given you his name incorrectly. The marked part of what you sent (all that returned herein) is exactly what he was telling a vastly larger international TV audience....I do not know of any major media attention given to any of the professional sycophants on China. Noting that the Times also used Fairbank reminds me. Barnett got little attention, but he did a show I know was aired on a DC FM station. He is at Brooking now....Je spotted both clips correctly. I am keeping a plagiarism file. It has been much more extensive with me than you can imagine and has come to be accepted. Turner once said that he regard anything I publish as public domain. As has acted accordingly, too.

Despite what you have indicated, I'm sending some LIFEs. Mao is on this week's cover, those slips labelled as tags. I'll be reading onlt Mafia story. Some of the pictures will probably interest you, some of the expressjons in particular.

Thanks again for all the trouble.

Best

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'MT' or similar, written in a cursive style.