

3/31/72

Dear Je,

Read your liltng and informative 26 during assorted errands this a.m. and most of the enclosed clips. I used to be sent Joesten's Ugh, but the friend who sent it has lest the country, so much as it could be used as a Petombismol promo, I'm glad to know what the nits are up to. In this case it is for Joesten fine. Generally he is well into insanity. If it is of any interest to you, what he attributes to ITV in England is from CBS TV. I have that taped

The Supreme Court Garrison decision could have some interesting an immediate consequences if there were a few good lawyers around and a few severely hassled who would care to exploit the precedent. The trouble with improvisation. This whole Shaw civil suit is wierd, for even if he establishes all other points, there remains the question of assessing damage and that involved Shaw's character and what that opens up, as I learned without trying, is something other than the soft-spoken bachelor playwright bit. But I know his lawyers are serious, and they are not putka lawyers, to use a Yiddish phrase. This was not even mentioned in the Post.

Of the things I send you, I can give you two broad divisions: those I think may amuse you and those that may perhaps ~~mf~~ be of interest, now or in the future, when I presume Jim will be doing some writing. If I want anything returned (like LIFE's, which I don't) I'll indicate. I remember one I sent you because of the picture, which I'd not seen elsewhere. And I have been sending everything I see on China, oncluding what I presume may duplicate, on the theory that if at some later point Jim should want to quote, he could just tape hunks on his rough and save that retying. In some cases where I presume it may duplicate, it is because of the possibility of editing. Example of this would be a Post story that it syndicated. You might pick it up in the LSTimes, but either or both may have cut, the syndicate editor ar the LATimes'.

This, like yours, will jump because of fatigue and interruptions. I'll listen to the Hume tape when I put a base on my vandalized mailbox, probably after supper tonight. I have had a running battle with the county, which damed the end of my lane and created an assortment of hazards to others than us, and have finally begun to win it. The effort is enormous. I'd have done better to make the repairs and then sue. It would have taken less time. But I have a general fascination with and interest in the ITT case, for your easons and many others, onle some of which are indicated in what I've sent you. This has to be a government of such corruption as to make the Harding administration like a perfume factory. I spoke about this kind of thing last night before a very conservative small group, the local Kiwanians, where a neighbor was chairman of the program. I was astounded by the synpathetic reception (King case, Kleindienst and what is involved). In fact, more than 20% got books, a record or close to it. If I'd had them with me, a higher % certainly. Kleindienst has even turned them off, as has Nixon, and this is his kind of country and these his kind of people.

I'll probably respond to all calling for any in your letter because I'm killing time awaiting a tentative TV crew from the next twon to the west, 25 miles by through-the-mountains road but no signal here (you have no monopoly on that, but this one isn't worth wanting to get-ever). The only reason is to air the Kleindienst LIAR record because of the slight chance of a net feed. A Baltimore station lined up a crew for last night but it naver showed, which means someone at the station overrode the assignment editor.

I didn't think there remain any employment with hours as barbaric as yours. I am aware of this and please make no apologies for non-responsiveness.

In your (pl) interpretation of Nixon'd comment on the long March together, while I can't estimate Chineseness as both of you can, I'm inclined to think tha they begin ith the assumption this is a lout and as close a thing to a complete lout as anywhere in the world. They begin with the assumption we can't have a gov't they can trust. The do regard as as barabrians both in the traditional sense and in the currently-justified one. And they

had to assume he was speaking for domestic and international consumption. With all the circumstances, I wonder if, after an initial reaction of offense, they may not have come to feel that Lout, lice and assorted Strangelovers may not have really intended a complementary gesture? I think they may well be the least paranoid leaders.

You can't begin to imagine how right your interpretation of the Pat/kitchen picture (all the Nixons always fare badly in foreign kitchens, their own being sufficed with Nixonburgers) is for the stills. This was so spontaneously honest in motion, with the one-dimensional Pat so superficial and the natives so robust and human-and polite.

Yeah, we loot. China, ghettos, wherever we go. Only under rare circumstances do we not. I had a couple of WWII experiences. I used to steal rations and take them to the anti-Franco Spanish refugees near Oran, and that wonderful fat Spanish women did such marvelous things with them and we got so gloriously drunk, like friends, no offer to payment, no expectation, the parties all improvised, and the drunken orations on man's freedom and destiny so taxing to my limited French but so little needing translation from the gestures and expressions. These the ordinary people. And the fancy-panties, upper-class women coming up to me in the streets of Oran and offering themselves for a cake of soap. Those wonderful countryside folk actually named a hog after an American soldier from Brooklyn who had bivouaced nearby and been friendly, in honor and in hope for his return, and by the most remarkable of coincidences, he did just before I left. What a shebang! You can't lay down any hard and fast rules, but there are few exceptions. We buy in China or take where we can. It is an inevitable reflection of our society. The Nazi prisoners I guarded were surprised that I always dealt with them honorably and never haggled with them when we swapped things. I accepted their offers or a I didn't, and I didn't ever do what I could have and they had always done, just take. ...But don't they sum it all up in "barbarians"?

If the copyright page of the Dell ~~wxxx~~ edition of WW is of the fourth printing, it is valuable for a number of reasons. Panzeca hasn't responded. Somebody went around behind me in N.O., This is but one manifestation. Dell has never acknowledged it. That is mail fraud and fraud. I have several such, but if I have them from points as scattered as N.O. and S.F., there is indication of rather large distribution of the unaccounted edition. The problem here is being able to sue and get prosecution. This, by the way, is one aspect of the Irving matter that interests me, the local rather than the federal prosecution. Were Rankin not corporation counsel in NYC and Redlich his assistant I'd be more inclined to go to the local d.a. on Dell and O&D. and Meredith (open and shit plagiarism-an entire chapter of WWII!) I understand now. And I've gotten very forgetful in the past year or so.

Snow: On TV that continued to get attention on commentaries. The radio here is largely barren except on "good music". I listen to it while doing other things, like working outside, and then the all-news stations only, so I have little knowledge of the China play on it. Gradually there came to be the understanding, despite the Lisagors, that this was something the people wanted to do, and that they did lean on the shovel once in a while meant at the very least that they didn't fear to. Or, no real compulsion. If this had happened 20 years ago, the reporters would have remembered farm life and it would not have seemed so strange....Too much got lost in the Great Hall bit. There are many other such projects I remember, all public works-dams, bridges, etc. But I think that in our great leap backward called "progress" we have lost the capacity to understand people except in terms of our own corruption....Re your comment on no beggars: perhaps the second most prevalent thing was the honesty of the people. I think I gave you a few cases, worn-out batteries (a continuing mystery with my, by the way) and worn-out undergarments returned. At some trouble. This also is not new, except to the college educated ignoramuses of the big press. It has been oft reported....Severehed, by the way, was one of the worst in stretching for snide cracks and home acceptability. I gather from a show he did on another station a few years ago that he has alienated his own son and is so holy about it.

Douglas, otherinformant stuff: No hurry at all. Someday I'll do a book, I, Spy. I'll use little for the intro to Agent Oswald. I'm collecting public cases of FBI responsibility and in general the farout. I had some in COUP.

By your reference to the number of files you have going, I take it you mean general

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subjects. I have been trying to anticipate the kinds of things that might be relevant. The post is shifting, increasingly, away from the wire services where they can. They have Leroy Abrahms, who I knew when he was on the city desk and who was later in NYC for them on the west coast. He is covering the Angela Davis trial. His yesterday's story was a good one. On her statement. So, with their specialists, like Karnow, I try to anticipate what might be of interest and assume you can tell at a glance and have your own wastebaskets. I've had to cut filing for many reasons, space and time especially....

Understand about the yellow pen. Noe if you had a different copier, you could use other colors which do not show up. If my old Thermofax were not busted (and the paper for it is but 2¢ per sheet), that will not pick up red or blue...Berigan tape: fine. It was no real trouble. I wanted to listen to it anyway. I've just put it back with the blank tapes. By the way, I taped N-PACT from ETV on the political reporters for you the other night but it was worthless. Big buildup for Broder and little else....Chou-Nixon meetings: general agreement. I'd have said awkward more than clumsy and a bit embarrassed, too, especially in the toast scenes, which you didn't see. But with fluctuations from the HUAC Nixon hardface and artificial smiles. Over and above the agreed "gotcha" bit, there was a period of Chou's quite visible coldness and physical separation, right before the end. I can anticipate some interpretations, but I also see there was a natural expression of personal revulsion at the whole necessary obscenity..., Reception: I've just sent you something on this. They carried their own red carpet!

Further Irving comment: I have the Maheu book if you should ever want it. McGraw-Hill never answered my letter, which doesn't surprise. My interest is limited, as above.

ITT-Kleindienst, etc. I've done little taping. I have a file on him because of my FOI relations and his responses. If he becomes AG I'll have extra need for this. But I'm keeping only what the post carries, and that in but one file, on him. It is all in there. You will find relevant to your comment on Dita B a few sentences in my letter to Paul of which I've carboned. You'll also find I've gone into your suspicions. The conflict is such that were Fleming not ITT's lawyer he'd be disbarred. From the Post reporting, she was interviewed by Time the Friday before the committee, had a hidden "small" heart attack, without doctor's knowledge or approval, arranged by Fleming, and on the Sunday hearing, he told the doctors to let it roll after the signals were telemetered, before she had the indicated seizure. What a plot for a novel! Perhaps the hospital will have a new wing, but I think it is the lawyers in this case. They have the client. The manifestation will be in the bank account....Sometime, if I haven't, I must tell you of the seer Jeanne Dixon that I knew when she was my customer.....

All local indications Harrisburg jury charge one of most incredible ever, as defense alleged, first add to prosecution's closing arguments. But with this Supreme Court?

Toppe's stuff magnificent. Favorite these two: a known columnist. Beautiful.

Best,

