

11/29/72

Dear Js,

Things have been stacking again, so I'm just getting into your last mailing, the one with the very welcome stamps inside and out, inside for use, out for kids.

Stang piece: I'd forgotten the Cossini death, as now happens to often, forgetting. In fact, Bremer has long been out of mind. If the copy from themag didn't reach you, it hasn't been returned by another, either. No matter.

In refiling the things I sent you, I notice with interest, in the light of the nature of the first announced administration changes, when-how fast-Halek returned to the White House staff.

I've expected the changes except Ash, as I think I indicated earlier. Contradictory interpretations are available for shifting Weingerger to HEW. He is regarded as a rough cat and that as an unmanageable agency. It will soon be spending more than DOD.

Personal needs had forced WG from my mind. Your clips bring it back. The NYT story did have two names not familiar to me, either. Lil has been indexing that story, so I'll leave it for her to check her index when she awakens in a couple of hours. Reading these reminds me of something I think we had not noted earlier, that the Segretti deal seems to have been limited to lawyers, which is a kind of commentary of what has happened to lawyers and how they regard themselves today.

Haldeman and the Chappaquiddick story are characteristic and interesting. It is the kind of story that can always be regurgitated and made to seem like fresh cud. It also reminds that this kind of operation is what was sadly missing from the Dem campaign when it was needed for survival and for victory and had the best such object of research in history. Don't know if I ever told you about the time Wallace ran for vice president. I got a call one day from someone speaking for them or Paul Appleby or Jimmy LeCron, both of who had been close to Wallace in Agriculture. They asked me to lunch at the old Willard Hotel, a decent place in those days. For help in the campaign. What did I know about the Republicans. Well, in those days much, for they had fascists working for them overtly. It was then not unfashionable. I ticked some of these things off and their reaction I've never forgotten: we've got the anti-fascist vote. What have you got that will help us get the fascist vote?

Good speech by Katie Graham, but apparently not good enough to be reported in her own paper. To date, nothing supporting the promise of continuing reporting. She confirms what I think was obvious, that their sources were inside. I never saw any sign that any one reporter had done any investigating. All this stuff was fed to them. When I gave them leads to follow on their own, they didn't do it once. Who's Who was enough for a helluva story on Hunt, CIA domestic intelligence, but you haven't seen it.

From the slug I take it you had to do with the reporting of the speech. Note the "more to come" part has not. Three weeks have passed and there has been no single mention. The story died with the election. I don't mean that Katie lied, that she and her sheet had political objectives. I mean this is the way the press is. There should be much more to come.

The language of Marina's suit is interesting, as is the fact. She has a case I do not see in this story, the only one I've seen, tho I'd heard of the appeal. She did have a contract for the rifle, and that is form. If we'd had contact, I could have given her the real value of some of the items, which were sold, like parts of the diary. I have the FBI reports of its investigation of them. Interesting that the government feels it has to chisel on these things, that they dare get the whole thing into court, that they spend more on defending the suit than fair payment to her would total.

Your analysis on the two Kissinger stories is solid. Braden said about the same thing yesterday. In fact, we'd be saying it in different ways for a while, before it was supposedly set and announced. I noted the strange cough to which Collier refers, I think to you or HR. This is the kind of clue intelligence training teaches one to look for. Collier is right.

In connection, did you note last night's report of negotiations between NVN and USSR, China, for re-equipping? Interesting timing.

K's self-portrait in the ~~KIX~~ Fallaci piece fascinates. About women, power-all.

If I did not anticipate the turns it has taken, I did plan to return to and concentrate on our damage suit vs the government for the ruin of our farm, etc., as soon as I could get out from under on the Ray habeas corpus. There is but one more thing I'm committed to do on it and that won't be possible before some time next week at the earliest. If those noncompoops, particularly Bud, had listened to me this would have been done three years ago and the in-court chances now better for it. More stuff that had been promised me that Bud wouldn't go for and I did not ~~like~~ have the \$\$\$ to. So, Jimay got it, unassisted. He is to give it to Jim or Bud Thursday or Friday, when they are in Nashville to file the papers.

I've done only the little p.r. work possible between other things. Warren Weaver, Fred Graham's successor, is interested and has a set since Tuesday. Post, NBC, CBS all supposed to be interested. At CBS the problem was to keep them out of Graham's hands, so they await George Herman, who returns today. I guess Lisagor killed at CDN. Head nothing.

As a fair sample of the Ray mind, I'm sending you Harry Jones KCStar story on their laying court to him. Beginning with his book on the "inutemen, from their point of view he was one of the poorest to select if they had this notion. Strange thing is they have a legitimate beef, but they succeeded in making it unlikely that any reporter would play it straight. They are setting John up, as my carbons might have suggested.

Strange thing whathas happened with my lawyer. Haven't taken time to try to figure out but I'll have to. I'll wait until I learn more. Here he is silent for a long time, non-responsive to persistent, polite prods that, in reviewing the correspondence, I see go back about a year. Does nothing he is supposed to, next to nothing at all, the one thing he does do he does less well than easily possible and months late. Then he is hot for a settlement, one he has known all along he was wasting time to convey. But in this he persists, leaning hard. Three times after I nix. I was unequivocal enough, but he ignored. He also failed to respond to anything. So, I get real firm. Hated to waste the time to review the history of the case with him, but I took the time and saw he had done worse than nothing, foreclosing me. He reacted fast enough to the weekend letter, calling Lil as soon as he got it. We had a long talk yesterday and he talks steamed up now. Big case. Real potential. Only reason he set the case for trial is because the assistant USA tyy is leaving. Who the hell cares? He seems to think that because that one is a lazy bum, our chances are better with him. I was pointed in saying that our chances are in careful, adequate preparation and I won't go to court without it.

The letter to Cohen notes what will be obscure to you, that he referred to sonic-boom cases only. The reason is my asking Cohen to check Martindale on the large firm's clients, for EALs, etc. We decided that Westinghouse is likely. And they created the sonic booms that hurt us, with AF jets from Friendship. Quite a possible coincidence. Now the firm has assigned an experienced trial lawyer. His on graduated in 1968. Once I tell him that my fight to get all our medical records succeeded, he is ready to fight like hell to get them, having failed from the first, failed even after he promised me in July that he would and when I d arranged for their release two years ago.

I'm hoping he'll ask Cohen to be co-counsel, for I think Cohen will do the real work he won't and has the dedication and the background. He lost the National Airport case but won a fascinating one against a utility (my firm reps big utilities) for killing Xmas trees with pollution. He knows the experts in noise. Anyway, in recent weeks I've made all the contacts necessary for real expert witnesses on health matters. Cohen, it turns out, knows the best available in the Baltimore area, which means no travel and hotel bills to pay later. I have his magnificent testimony to an EPA hearing... This case should and could have been tried after first-rate preparation months ago. Clapp is to be here all day Friday and I'm to go to his office all day Monday. At some point I'm going to push for Cohen as cocounsel, to handle the medical end. Cohen has a bright kid working for him who suddenly remembered a citation of my first, successful suit, which told me he is up on the field, for only one lawyer has even mentioned it to me and I've spoken to 50 over the years. I've also found a compendium of such suits and started through it. A xerox of the one suit I read is in the mail to me. Isn't it great to have to be your own lawyer to keep your lawyer working? But one more and a defensive note: what made the difference here is another one of those letters to which all my young friends object. They just don't believe Ecclesiastes! This was the time for it, and whichever way Clapp reacted, it had to move us forward. I had earlier restrained myself. The time for that really passed month ago. I d have clobbered earlier if the Ray commitment hadn't prevented it. I m pushing for trial in six months. Best,