

AUG 13 1973

With a few moments before we leave for an 80th birthday party for an aunt of Lil's, following which the McDonalds will be here for the rest of the day and evening, an explanation of the enclosed letter to Ed Williams. It was an emotional not logical thing, on impulse, not after thinking through. The little time I have for thinking is when I take Lil to and from work and on my morning walks on other days, too little. I didn't go out for the mail until I finished the Hughes/Cox/McCord/ Greenspun/Nixon/ Maheu chapter tentatively titled, after Cox's memorable self-disclosure, "...It Never Entered My Head." I read Ed's letter and the Village Voice and sat down immediately. Lil may have made some corrections. I asked her to read it to see if I had gone too far and made errors that could impede comprehension. What I've asked of Ed is out-of-character for him but if he will depart from character, he would be an effective person to try this thing (If you want the pale and not clearly legible Village Voice, I'll be filing it under Penthouse. Among my fears is their picking of the nuts, which I did address. They have means and have to fight for existence. I think they and I could have common interests. Will they act as militantly as they speak, and will they learn from the media blackout on their statement? I see nothing to be lost or that can be from an effort of this kind. Because of their own position and interests, I'd evaluate the chances, no matter how poor, as better than average. However, based on past experiences and the probability that the campaign against me has in some manner, if only from publication somehow reached and was retained by a staffer, I'm reluctant to make the obvious move, a direct approach. The past teaches me that these don't work often enough on "controversial" people and events. I could not write a letter like this in my own name. And if I did, they'd discount or ignore... One of the odd things is that the man in DJ with whom I took counsel was named Cox, and my not dependable recollection is Archie. KC Blackburn ~~saw~~ sent me to him. She was then Mellett's successor in OGR and aside from ~~material friends~~ a kind of maternal feeling she had for me, I did much for her, free. And she knew, for the WH... Despite my doing things on impulse, on such steps this is rare and even young I checked out. ...Cabinet officer Morgenthau ... If, as I expect Ed demurs, I'll have to consider next step because this seems to be one of the few possibilities. And it is true that I fought such fights before there were skinmags. The picture to which Walker and Legion Decency (Catholic hierarchy-Indiana based) was a woman more clothed than average, not exceptional, for street-wear today. No breasts, no pubic hair... Yesterday was an emotional one after I completed the chapter, "It didn't Enter My Head", ref to A. Cox re Hughes tec. Then I did a draft in anticipation of GL's pronouncement (I pick 15th as symbolic) I'll probably later discard as emotional.

Lesar, back from Europe, phoned. Long talk. Impression in Europe is that WG is going downhill fact, i.e., investigation. European reporting says what US doesn't. Fair attention Internation Hearld-Trib to inner staff complaints, he says. Ware mention here. We'll get together this week. He'll try to do the two things he promised to do before he comes up...Ervin, having played into GL's hands and strategy aside from Hot Chotinerism I expect a strong attack that may be guised as something else. His immediate plans are cagey, pres conference under best possible conditions, as far away from that foreign culture as possible, and picked, friendly audiences, N.O. and if it goes well there, others...With 90⁰ plus days and air-pollution warnings I've been staying in much...All other fronts quiet. ...Radio news quotes Times as saying GL ordered Dewey Canyon I within his first two days in WH. Post no mention. Expect HR will send when he can...HW 8/12/73