

MAY 16 1973

Dear Js,

5/14/73

Before I get to your 5/9, which came today, there may not be enclosed some things I said would be when I got to copying. I'm almost out of 3rd paper. I'll order today, but if nothing goes wrong it can take two weeks to go 50 miles. I'll let these things stack up, unfiled, and will copy when the paper gets here. The little I have must be conserved for the urgent, or for legal needs.

I also am buried, more so now with needs connected with an effort to collect what is owed me (silence from Traahft and Wirin), and thinking of a WG book. I have caught up on two days of my absence only. Don't expect to get to any more until Wed., when I have to get the old car tuned. I'll read while waiting. Go to DC in a.m. for day. I'd skimmed an earlier letter that came in my absence and am aware of the possibility of duplication. I don't think it has an easy answer.

My hunch is that while things will rush, the volume of recent days will not be maintained. The Post has this strange machismo, which tends to make me feel that except with the different kinds of stories we've had recently, its may well contain other than what the wire has or the Times uses. The Times complicates this by beginning to get into the story. Today is an example. Lil is working and I've done the clipping. (She has not been able to keep up with events and can't make the judgements for this reason when she does the clipping.) Take the Baker TV appearance yesterday. I have no way of knowing if the Times or wires will carry the same quotes. And, although there are 19 (count them diary!) envelopes from Howard, not even looked at, none for two days. So, I'm that far plus transit time behind in the Times. I know what it had the last three days I was away only. So, I can't depend on guessing what the Times carries. It can at any time revert to the downplay of the past. Unless you scream, I'll lean on the side of taking no chances. There are three things in today's paper I didn't send. And I've not had time to read anything else. Imagine depending on occasional radio & TV for news?!!

As I think about a possible book, I am more convinced that handling the WG caper, the later developments like Ellsberg, the financing and crookedness, the spooks (including the never-faithful FBI, which failed in this case, too, and I can specify it) and what nobody is mentioning, what GL has done as President, all as part of the new American Authoritarianism, is the only way for others than Woodward & Bernstein to think and write. If you think there is any other honest formula, I'd like to know. As I would any suggestions you can dream while asleep and type or tape in your sleep (have you any other time?).

With all I have to do, I don't see how I can take time to write a book. Yet I also think that with this formula, which eliminates all later developments, I could do it in a month. Draft, that is.

Thus I'm filing a few of your great lines in 5/9 for cribbing!

How I wish I hadn't met the Dutton prexy as I did. Seemed like a nice guy. If there is no paperback prospect, I'd have approached. And I think the "undeeground" format for a fast book or its first printing would add much on this subject. These hidebound guys don't really understand what offset and imagination make possible. I sent WW in in takes and it worked. They could repage easily later and I could send chapters in the same way, for editing and retyping for final camera copy.

I'm thinking of a section "Rogues' Gallery". Bios. The prevalence of military, spooks and ultras would stack and add more than information-context. Of course, Carrswell would not appear there. Add crooks, like Ash. He has two careers, right and theft.

When you talk of foreign reactions, I've just started a separate file on that. And I will on domestic, part of which will be GOPs. He has taken on his own party, GL has.

Hunt: we still don't know what he has spilled to the grand jury. To date all that has appeared serves some special interest which had inspiration for the leaking. If we are right about E Howard, he will be the exception. Please take careful note of the Dorothy estate story from ChiToday enclosed. I find myself wondering if Bittman is using the Chicrash money as part of his fee, i.e., Hunts and WG.

I think I sent you a carbon of my long letter to friend "Dick". I had not had time to think through, but if you can find time, I'd welcome suggestions. Esp. if you think I have the viable approach, for anyone besides Bantam and written by other than Posters. Or Hersh....Found Sundance piece. Best,

FW