

Dear Jim,

3/9/74

The one advantage of getting too tired is that it gives me time to catch up on some reading and other odds and ends. I am out of shape and do feel the physical work outside as never before, which I suppose comes from more than being out of condition.

So, I've caught up on the valuable clips with your last mailing. The note you had on the Sally Harmony switch to Harriott is correct, I never look at the financial section any more. It is one of the compromises I have had to make.

The Caen clip on Knowland not responding on the obit inquiry bears on your earlier comment rather heavily. Ours has become a much more Byzantine society than I'd ever have been willing to admit was within possibility less than 10 years ago.

How clearly I recall believing that a conspiracy involving a large number of people could not succeed and thus would not be attempted. How well WG illustrates the flaw in this reasoning based upon the past! Off course, they were caught, but a major part of the plotting remains unexposed. A relatively minor part is the break-ins at the embassies by those not repairing pipes.

The Harmony story also carried a minor message: these cats have not fallen apart. They are still taking care of those in whom their interests are still involved, those they want not to talk. The Liddy clan hold Hunt secrets.

By now you have seen enough of my comment on the inadequacies of the indictments. I guess this is the senior prom for which Leon was saving himself, per my earlier memos and reports on comments to Sussman. Last night's review of the Columbia Law Alumni story on its alumni on his staff tells me that Cox's natural disposition almost assured this type of young lawyer, the upwardly mobile, probably Catholic, bright functionary type, candidates for Richardson/Rusk/Shaughnessy roles. Not one of this group, which includes all those who have received press attention, is one of those reportedly in a state of revolt. Their leader was home mowing his grass at the time of the alleged "revolt."

And they depended on the FBI for their investigating, as I'd supposed. However, their DJ backgrounds assured this. The WC pattern could not be more faithfully repeated.

It is all rounding out in ways not observed by the press.

Nixon is getting away with more than crime. It is the reordering of society itself despite WG. All the rest is working.

When Lesar phoned last night to tell me to tell Lil not to figure on them for lunch today when they come with Bud's secretary for her to figure their taxes he reported a new development in FOI decisions. The Washington appeals court had been in the forefront on honest FOI law interpretations until my spectro appeal, when they went and rewrote the law. You may remember my letter to Lesar telling him that I had to defer my personal interests in favor of the broader need. Well, in a new decision, where DJ had again appealed an honest interpretation of the intent of the law, a panel of this court actually said that the decision of the judge in the court below was based upon the law prior to their decision in Weisberg, in which they had rewritten the law. And they reversed.

The Nixonian judges are taking their toll and the Rays are among the means to this end. One decision in John's case, ignored by the civil-liberties types, is one of the most repressive. John filed in St. Louis on ineffectiveness of counsel based on what I had picked up and worked on back in 1971, that his counsel had never filed the prepared petition cert in the Supreme Court. No question, he didn't. And he was paid to by John's sister, although court appointed. Well, there has been a decision. Against John and for the negligent lawyer. He is not negligent because another lawyer did the same thing two years too late! Lesar's petition cert, noted in his motions, exculpated the lawyer who neglected!

We should have done something about this two years ago. The failure typifies the limitations we have imposed upon ourselves. They come from egos and false concepts. Bud had the means, the cost was negligible, it was a part of his representation of James, and he just didn't do it. It has been with him much as it was with Garrison, if it originates with me he is again st/it, especially if he didn't see it or disagreed to begin with. The difference is that when he has great need, Bud will do as I suggest or sometimes demand.

Jim reports that all the way back to DC Thursday Bud remained as content as he had been here. I think Jim was surprised that I can be diplomatic and can mix the delicate approach

with the forceful. Jim sort of chuckled when I asked him if the spell had lasted the trip back because Bud had agreed to much more than he had originally opposed. One I did not know of is about me. One of my Thursday's suggestions is that in addressing the issue of effectiveness of counsel we depose me in Washington, which imposes the maximum hardship on the state and makes it easiest for us, on the question of my investigation, not going ~~ix~~ into the substance of what I developed but in generalities describing what I was able to develop under great financial and time handicaps and what it means. This to show that had Foreman made any investigation at all he had to have known there was no chance of a conviction. Bud liked the idea and it appeared to me Thursday that he had not considered it. It is our present plan. Well, it turns out that Jim had suggested to Bud as they discussed the evidentiary hearing that they use me as a witness for essentially this purpose and Bud had opposed it.

This typifies one of the problems we have always had, that those who have the means to make things possible never will and instead squander what for us are fortunes in what are either futilities at best or inevitably counter-productive at worst. The money Bud alone has wasted is one example. Garrison is another. (If Garrison had been willing to do a simple thing he could have broken the case. All he had to do, beginning with Bringuier, was call New Orleans witnesses before the grand jury and ask them to swear to their Commission testimony and then charge them with perjury and try them on that charge.)

Apparently Bud kept telling Jim on the way back that he'd like to find some way of helping me and he tends to favor the idea of doing it through an archival arrangement, the kind of thing on which I have recently spent a little time. Now that he knows that the local small college has interested faculty, it will be interesting if he utilizes a pertinent coincidence, that he once knew well and is friendly with the new president of it, a former Peace Corpsman. That provides an initial natural with me because I was the one who got it its first good p.r. break and their house organ credited it.

His name is Pritchard, unknown to me except from a couple of quotes in the local paper. One of these, in answer to apparently excessive black complaints, was impressive. Another I will be sending you. It has to do with an uncredited local championship that was reported as far away as WxPost yesterday and Baltimore TV night before or that day.

The girls streaked, in large number, at least 15% total enrollment. With two boys.

Pritchard's comment is that it was less likely to cause illness that swallowing live goldfish and less likely to do other harm than risking suffocation (phone-booth kick) but the college did have to be concerned about its exposure.

The very sweet and very pleasant young woman who is consolidating my index cards was supposed to come again yesterday afternoon. She phoned to say she had better complete a SEAsia reading project (I loaned her Tel Taylor for it.) She asked me if I had seen the Baltimore TV broadcast, which I hadn't. Well, it seems she and another girl were on it. Someone had called out "There are two!" of the streakers and the photog thought it her and her companion, who were against it. And hadn't.

I am so sorry she is a senior. She finds no local swain to her taste, a certification of good taste except for bad luck, for they are a bleak lot, and she is interested in helping. Gradually she could have done much helpful work. But if she completes the planned it can mean much.

She is also good medicine. She smiles with sincerity and automatically. We have so little cause for smiling and see so few it is in itself an asset here.

Of the few I have met, the one with most promise is on an accelerated program. She will get her degree in not more than 3 1/2 years. Unless her outside work can be switched. She spends a day and a half working 30 miles away-free-for the Associations of Chiefs of Police. And she plans to be a lawyer. She could learn more here! And do more good than she and the others can there.

I began this rambling with the intent of telling you that those last two reviews are so great I presume you will have no objection to my giving Lesar copies when he comes today.

And trying to recall what it was that led you to get the last-straw impression from my Solzhenitsyn comments. I'm sure you were justified as I feel that while I was much disappointed, I didn't think I was on such a downer. The fact is that I took my reading months ago from his Aftonbladet comments. *On Nixon - W. G.*

Best,