

Dear Jim,

11/25/74

I haven't seen the LA FREEP for years. But I decided to take some time with them yesterday for two reasons. More than I would have taken for the story on IV.

Also yesterday I got a call from a psychologist who knows me and people at the local mental-health clinic who know he knows me. They told him of the story in the local paper and apparently gave him the Village Voice story to read. His reaction to that was the same as yours. So was JP's, so was Ed Williams' and I think several others. This seems to me to add up to a plus. And to a willingness I'd not seen before in the undergrounders to come up for fresh air. I've also found this willingness with Jon at Zodiac and I think with Kaiser for Rolling Stone, which was initially quite antagonistic to my suggestion that they were about to deceive, mislead and misinform the young again. So, when I was called by Tom Thompson of the Freep I read a few excerpts from the transcript, but it went slowly as he wrote. I suggested that he tape, but his machine wasn't there. He asked about calling back when he got it. I agreed. He called back to say it was busted and could he call in evening. Agreed. But evening for him was after I was asleep. However, when he got me up I stayed up a long time and talked to him, freely as with Village Voice only not about myself. Once he got a heavy load of what can be done not conjecturally, not by theorizing based on what can be done responsibly (I suggested irresponsible) in dozens of other ways by the dedicated wrong, I think it got through to him that giving this new generation solid information can serve useful purposes but the kind of wild stuff I've been seeing does deceive and makes fact seem insignificant, or makes these young uninterested in learning fact. How can truth meet the competition of all these fantasies, I asked. It took a long time but maybe it will turn out to be worth it. If we could make a dent with the largest east-coaster, perhaps we can do the same on the opposite coast...And what is surprising is that the audience some of these undergrounders reach can spend money as it deserves. I'm really surprised at the expensive calls I'm getting from those who heard the Zodiac item. Five-seven yesterday all from the west. This suggests that others than cinnamome kids hear.

Anyway, combined with our success in fact and in prospect with the Ray case and with the solidity of the content of IV, I'll spend this time when it seems welcome. It may not do any good but some way must be found to counter the zanies or nothing can or will ever be credited...I explained to Thompson why I've not spoken to Gonzalez and won't and that it had nothing to do with his intentions. Had to do with success and who would be listened to and how one destroys effectiveness and credibility. We'll see. HW