

DEC 17 1975

Dear Jim,

12/13/75

There are about 15 minutes before the NPR radio news goes on, pretty poor, imitation magazine stuff, followed, I think, but something called The Week in Review before the evening TV news. This will be when I do today's packaging.

The electronic news has degenerated so I listen to the radio news only at night, barely audible under the pillow for the periods when I awaken, to take my mind and keep it from turning to work I want to do and dare not. And, I assure, you, don't. I also listen to it when I shave in the morning. Not even the little time I drive. I'm going to have to see if I can drive to Washington Monday and I have no concern. I believe I can without difficulty if I do not abuse the leg the rest of the day.

Today I even took a nap. And had no trouble falling asleep. It helps to be dog tired and I was. Last night with the Times stuff was hard on me, emotionally and in keeping me up. No matter how many times I tell myself I have to give up the fireman role, I can't entirely. I do ignore most, however. I'll have to take a nap tomorrow because I'm doing a by-phone show with Conyers at 11 p.m. A black show on a station that gets into 36 states. Similar show later hour and longer Thursday, so I'm going to have to get into the napping habit.

This is one way of saying that I really am trying to take care. There are exceptions. But I hold them down. I think to a minimum.

It is not alone the challenge of what DJ/FBI did to the Times when I had so decent and arrangement all set. (Must have been eavesdropping or a Times fink.) I have to nullify it. Right now I think that thanks to Mo's honesty and superior competence, the time we've spent together in the past and the trust we have in each other we may just succeed in either nullifying this or getting enough out of it to make it mean more in the end. Crewdson did talk much before he suddenly switched roles. As you can see, I'm still working on him while making a record for possible future use.

I have been able to look ahead despite the illnesses and problems with some clarity. I'd located a Tennessee lawyer who has criminal experience and could be willing to come in on the potentially enormous civil actions. More so with what I've gotten under FOIA from DJ, partly used in 12/11 press conference. When I couldn't wear shoes and saw Jimmy the day after turning Belin around while disappointed because I felt I hadn't, I got his OK to explore civil actions for him. Now the lawyer has been in touch and a tentative meeting is set between him and JL for a month or so.

Actually, if we had the funds or a real ACLU, what we could not do with litigation alone is fantastic.

So, in the event the DJ uses the Times and they err and I have a record of having reminded them that they failed to check, we'll have a better record. I believe they are being fed what looks persuasive and is fake. The FBI's files must bulge with such.

Before he turned around Crewdson, who was following Mo's leads and hiding it from me (Mo outs it all on youth) was really helpful for the future. I think with Ray it is not that distant.

If I can spend some time with Conyers alone, out of his office, I think we'll force this. There are ticklishnesses. Like he is a pal of Edwards and Edwards is in Lane's pocket. But the way he rose to the occasion, the way he handled it, even the precise words he used extemporaneously, were very encouraging. It all blew Floyd's mind when he saw what I improvised after he was stonewalled first with Conyers' outer guard and then with Dellums' stuffed shirts. He's never had any but arrogant administrative assistants. I think this one will hear about it. I've made four unsuccessful efforts to talk to Dellums and this one got Conyers extensive attention that would have been Dellums. Today I got a tape that went to 300 black stations. There is another net. The major radio nets used. etcetcetc. So, a little competition won't hurt. Dellums' attitude was irresponsible as reflected by his staff. Just boil the pot. Conyers made it possible for me to have a larger audience than I'd have had on my own and there wasn't one in the bunch who tried a really dirty question in more than a 1/2 hours. I don't know what the ~~sp~~ papers carried but the radio attention was considerable and there was wire copy I've not yet seen. (The call from Eason's producer was when I got home and I went on the air immediately and cold. They saw wire copy.)

As it now stands I'm hopeful something will come of this Conyers renewed relationship.

While I do feel the emotional effects of the reduced capabilities, they are neither depressing nor really discouraging. I think my adjustments is well under way. Meanwhile, the medical prognosis is that I'll be able to return to fairly normal activity before the winter is over. I doubt this means the short nights of the past but I've begun to adjust to that.

Part of the difference is the wonderful kids.

Part of the problem is what they can't do. Like I had to junk the prepared press release that explained the material I used two days ago once there was the Conyers connection. And xeroxing copies in advance was impossible. Through one of the kids and perhaps through Conyers I'll be able to work this out in advance for the next time. FBI held much back. I've asked for it and in or out of court expect it. (I think this explains the push with the Times, of which the Post now knows.) One of the kids sat next to a p.r. staffer of another Congressman, made the acquaintance, and is supposed to go back to her to see if she'll undertake to help next time. Her critical perceptions were sharp. If she is willing we've advanced that much for when I have more to release. It would have been so good had it been predigested, as in the original release it was!

I guess the real problem is that I'm not up to as many simultaneous fights as before. So, I'll have to pick my fights with too many already started! I expect to begin tomorrow with the appeal against the CIA's stonewalling, which moves it closer to their decision, whether to deliver in full, and out need to go to court.

Meanwhile, Lil has been working on the books and finds that we've not gotten back 100% of all cash costs on WWIV and a little more. This little more doesn't begin to cover the others real costs but it is encouraging, considering that I've been able to do it despite theft, boycotts and no advertising except the cost of the mailing to announce the book, advanced and recovered. What comes in from it now, aside from actual manufacturing cost and postage is income. Can we use some.

What is also encouraging is that I've had some income from fees this year. Couple of speeches, couple of consultations, etc. While it hardly totals a significant figure, it is an improvement over the past.

Lil came in and we talked about this through the radio news.

We've had some nasty weather and I've had these various matters with which to cope, but from now on, when the weather is decent and there is no emergency I'm going to start a little walking again. It will be little enough to begin with but I think I can increase it gradually and instead of doing it all at once I have the doctor's OK to do it several times a day. I think that alone will make me feel better. I do not think it will make an reduction in the 10-15 lbs I've out on during these several months of so little physical activity.

...Jim agreed last night that Bud has to have been a bit worried to have called me at all after Crewdson, Horrocks and Franklin left. By the time I thought it through Bud was out for the night. Jim is to have asked him today to record everything he can recall of what the trio wanted to know or seemed to so I can try to figure out what I can of it. I never hear from Bud unless he needs help. However, for him I must say that once Jim gave him to understand the significance of what I'd gotten on the ing suit vs Justice Bud offered to get space at the University Club or the use of his office for the press conference. I was able to work a better arrangement out and I think it will hold for the future. That will be my objective, anyway. Better attention on the Hill and I think the overall effect on the media will grow if they are given facts and documents, not theories and conjectures. It will help with the Members, too.

Conyers, by the way, does not think Schweiker is really serious and wants to get what he can in a short period. This conforms to my limited experience. Ditto for Abzug. Now to the packaging. But I must go back to what I had in mind, telling you that despite lacking the kind of energy I had and despite being physically (perhaps also emotionally) tired I am satisfied I am making progress. Best,

HW - our new relation