

29 May 1975

Dear Harold:

You will want to know that your third class mailing of May 23, containing the copy of your NYU speech, came in okay a couple of days ago. Havne't had a long enough block of time yet to take it all in at one sitting, but hope to get to it within a few days. I think you asked some time ago if I could suggest any place to cut it. I doubt if I'll find such a place or places, but I'll try and let you know any reaction that seems worth while passing along.

In the same mailing, I think, was a memo about a conversation with Lonnie Hudkins which mentioned Roger Craig's reported suicide. Only a day or so before this arrived we had heard the first word of Craig's death, and naturally have our reservations about the official story in view of all that is going on. As far as we know, it was not carried out here, either in the press or on radio or TV news, although we could have missed it.

Where we actually heard it was on Eason's program, which we had tuned in during a late lunch. He credited a report in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, as I recall, but had no details beyond the self-inflicted gunshot wound. If you have any further details, could you please pass them along at your convenience ?

Eason's guest was George O'Toole. He was playing a low-key line and being very reasonable. Even agreed readily and quite positively when one caller asked him if he had read your books. Left no doubt he had. He impressed us as smooth and intelligent. Crooked and ruthless, easily, but certainly not stupid.

Not much to enclose this time -- only a couple of Hoppes we thought you'd enjoy. Most of our reading and filing these days has had more to do with Laos, Thailand, Veetnaam, Cambodia and the Mayaguez incident than anything else. Incredible how most of the columnists have seen through that totally phony deal from the beginning, but how Congress and the news part of the press continue to treat it not only as genuine but actually something to be proud of. We have a neighbor who flies for Pan American and who also is a naval aviation reservist. He was extremely srious yesterday when he told us he was ashamed to be an American when something like the Mayaguez is pulled off, and he has to walk down the street in London or Buenos Aires or Caracas and be recognized as one. He understood clearly how it was rigged, and even with all the reading we've been doing we could only reinforce his convictions about the Mayaguez with specific details he hadn't yet heard about.

I must report that our table saw is temporarily out of action. It is a monstrous frame made of 2x4s with an old formica door for a top, and the mandrell on which the saw is mounted is an ancient cast iron affair about six inches in diamater. A carpenter friend left it to us years ago when he moved away. Well, a couple of small birds, somewhere between a sparrow and a wren, have built a nest inside the casting and are raising a family, already hatched. When Mama arrives with a worm there is a great chorus of sheeping. I discovered this situation a couple of weeks ago, before the family was hatched. Then one day I went down under the house where the saw stands and found Pokey sitting two feet away, his eyes glued to the mandrell, from which cheeps were coming. I surrounded the whole thing with wire mesh, the birds can get through, but which the cats can't. Wish us luck. Best,