

MAY 12 1977

Dear Jim,

5/11/77

Je and you are in my mind often. With hope that she gets along well and that the discomforts are easing or have disappeared.

I know little about these things but recall an older man who once helped me on the farm. He required them. They worked well. He died sitting up in his chair at least 10 years later, apparently of a heart attack. Looking g better than he had before the treatments.

There is little new here.

I've resisted the temptation to hide Ben Bradley for the second killing of a legit Lardner piece on Lane/ Fauntroy and the committee.

Scheduled for each of the past two Sundays. Both editions full of undated stories more suitable to magazines.

I find myself wondering if this is really Larry Stern or other influence.

Lesar has been asked to attend a judicial conference at "ershey, a. At first he thought it was just another lawyers' junket. They came back at him and he came to realize it is quite a prestigious thing, judges and all that, and by selective invitation only. I believe it is on the initiative of one of the judges we've been before, either Green at the ~~federal~~ district or one of the Washington or Cincinnati appeals benches. And he has never addressed a jury yet, either. 'Course he has addressed a few judges!

The House committee follows the same McCarthyite course. I'm getting wind of some of their plans -for what has no established relevance and is not new.

Records from the FBI and coming in a third larger volume now but the end of far off. The file is enormous- and this is but one file. I think I have them searching others now. I have thousands of CIA pages I've not yet read, including those on the "critics."

As you've probably gathered Zebra appears unserious. The promised letter I would not have accepted has not come and they have mine saying let us do it the usual way. I fear they have a financial disaster in their Fensterwald book. Or I'll probably have to publish The King Conspiracies in my own format. Jim thinks the outline is okay only he wants more of what I've omitted, quite a switch. I'm waiting to hear from "es Payne. I want him to give me his ideas as he has before. He was very helpful in letting me see a simplification. They took form while he and Jim and I were talking at a lunch a while back.

However, it looks as though I'll not be able to get an assistant of any kind, someone to keep up with filing, etc and obtain the files I need for writing. When this became apparent I took time to duplicate more or less of a writing file, extra copies Lil now makes of the records as I go over them. I have a separate file of them approaching a foot in thickness. Without this new machine anything like this would have been impossible because of the time required by the 3M machine. Now as I go through the records I put a paperclip on those I want for this file and where necessary a note. Thus the file itself kept intact and when I get to writing I'll not have as much jumping up and searching.

Even after all that has come out this extraordinarily large headquarters files provides an exceptional view of how it works. And doesn't. Incredible story of that largest non-investigation in history.

I've pretty much decided that whatever does or does not eventuate I'll start writing next week if not later this week. I like to keep at it when I do write and there will be an interruption. I have to take Lil to Washington again Tuesday. The last trip, Friday, gave me some trouble for the next several days because I could not stop and walk around on the way back, I suppose. There was a heavy storm. When I ride with my friend John I can keep my legs higher and move them around. Can't while driving.

Our best and all our hopes,

