

Lubbock Texas Aug 28, 1933

Dear Cleo: I guess you are right about Jones - that's just the way I felt about it too - yet I wanted to sock him on the nose - and would not have hesitated to do it if it had been necessary, nor will I hesitate a second if it does become necessary in the future. As I have said before - I am crippled, but as yet plenty capable physically to take care of that skunk in whatever sort of an encounter that might come to pass. He is just trying to throw a big smoke screen - we both well realize that - yet he cant get personal - and if you hear of it again write me, or perhaps as you suggest it would be wise just to call his hand and make it a polite and yet positive and genteel calling down. That might be a good idea anyway, and if you feel equal to the occasion I can see that no harm that could come of it, nor can I see no reason for not going through with it - though you decide that for yourself as you may think it best for me to handle the situation, in which event I will be glad to do it. This letter is of course confidential, strictly so - all of it.

Really - we have them on the run - I am quite confident of that - why - well I will tell you - but it is in strict confidence, and not to be mentioned to any one - Loftus - your mother - Parsons or any one else. They have been soliciting my friends here for an honest opinion as to how badly I have been crippled, and trying to find some little bit of evidence that might be helpful to them, some one that would offer just a little bit of testimony such as my getting around without my ~~can~~ cane - or something I have said - something I have done - some indiscreet thing that would weaken my case. Of course they have found no such testimony or evidence and wont. My friends are the sort that would not testify that way even if it were true that I am not hurt, but of course it is a true - I am badly hurt, and am as yet pretty much disturbed about my condition - the back and the knee alike are both equally disturbing as you know, and as my friends know - however they are going to have to offer some sort of defense - we know that - and it will in all probability be manufactured - through Wilson, Grandel and ~~Kilpatrick~~ are reputable lawyers, or are so regarded here and would not stoop (Kilpatrick) to dirty tricks themselves as I see it. But they must have some sort of defense when they get to court, and honestly I dont believe they have a bit now - even though it was on Sunday - and that that is the only defense that I have ever thought they have or could offer - that Hinchey was not on company business.

As for vacation plans if you make any - it is not advisable for any one to be consulted, or advised as to those plans - it will not help your suit a bit, even if you go no further away fr your work than Tulia, and there is not a single bit of advantage to be gained anywhere by announcing your plans for any trips - if you take a trip I would advise against even telling your mother or sisters, and this is with all due respect for them too. A line of some old philosophers wisdom "To be right all of the time is not easy, but not to speak ill of one requires only silence."

That is applicable to many other phases of conversation too besides "not to speak ill of one." I believe in it and practice it - except in my conversations with you - and it is always ^{well} to have someone to talk to freely enough that secrecy is not necessary. I have some ^{well} business in Phoenix Arizona that may require a trip out there some of these days. I will tell you about it sometime. About the job - yes I would feel the same way as you do after the events that have transpired, and if I could locate a better job I really believe I would not hesitate to take it.

Surely plans will work out so you can have a few days vacation to which you are certainly entitled to have. If they do drop me a line any time and I will w run up there for you any afternoon - you can be all ready and there will need be no delay - in fact it might be best for each of us if you take your bag down town and check it somewhere and meet me at some appointed hour and spot, then we can drive by for your handbag and there will be no delay, and no questions to ~~ask~~ answer at Mrs Hills or elsewhere. I would not even need to stop at the place. ~~ask~~

If the date happens to be ~~two~~ days or two weeks off that will suit me O. K. or perhaps even better as Henry is taking out this week for his vacation and is to be away a week or ten days, however that would not make any difference in your schedule unless your time was short as you could come on down here for a few days visit - a day or two here, and a day or two at home. You could drive up in your car for your visit at home. Of course it would probably be best for you not to

spend very much time here under the circumstances as we dont want them to have a ~~single~~ single bit of cause for gossip, or any evidence that would hurt your case or mine. I am confident that they are really disturbed now since this friend of mine came to me this morning to say that he had been approached by the opposition in their attempt to uncover some evidence or some point that would be unfavorable to my case. I think the worst that could happen would be easy to endure in comparison with the suffering that I have already endured, and while I dont welcome publicity or notoriety, I can stand a jolt of that just as easily as I can stand to let them tell me to go to ---- and make it stick as they are trying to. If they lick me (and I will be licked if I dont get a judgement for a few thousand) I can take it with a smile - I 'Ve been taking it on the chin for a long time and one more wallop wont hurt me - and as for my testifying for you, I will be glad to do it - and in your testimony for me, or mine for you there can not be any particular tangle. I know these lawyers well, and feel that there will be reasonably fair play when we all get to the court room - in other words they have my respect, and I know of no reason for me not having theirs - even if they were on the defense side of the 9.86 cent lawsuit against the express company. Yes they were the lawyers - and they had a licking too (but that need not be mentioned either) just like they are scheduled for another one. They are on the losing side Cleo. Right dont always win, but it is going to in this case. You can bet on that - so can I.

So they fined Mr Navockavitch 25.00 did they ? well - thats fine - I would not care if they catch him again - I hope he has to pay it - though it is probable that he will squirm out of it someway. Now I hope you were right about that indictment, however I dont think he could be tried twice on the same charge even if he has been indicted.

There may be a chance for that business up there yet, even if it does look pretty tough. If we had him out of the way I believe we would sail along in a very comfortable manner this next season, and I now think we will get through thw next few weeks some way, even though I havenot been able to do a thing with the financing of this place here and though things ~~do~~ look pretty gloomy and have been for the past three months. The oyster season is right around the corner - and its not a Hoover corner either - its really on the schedule - oysters next week, and that marks the beginning of easier times for a few months - whether I make any money or not.

Finally got the notes on the place (across from the Biltmore) arranged so there is a chance to handle them - I will show you the letter- commence payments again by the first of next month and catch up the total balance on or before March first next year on the ~~new~~ other one so maybe there is a chance to hang on to both of them if I can have just reasonable luck the next few months.

I sure am beginning to need a manicure again, and while there are plenty of manicurists down here I dont like their work any too well. Hope I can manage to get a good one this week end anyway - though sometimes Amarillo seems a long way off.

I too wish you could find a job down here, or that I could find one here for you, but that question of a job I guess is a big one - thats the way all of these fellows I have talked to about it seem to feel about it. If you think of anything I can do or say that might be worth while for you here dont hesitate to say so.

Sweetbreads- yes - I like them but have not eaten any ~~since~~ since the last I had with you. In fact my appetite is still rather poor and it worries me some - never in my life have I known the time when my appetite for food was anything short of ravenous, but it is not that way now. I think the pain in the back and the knee have affected my nervous system to a great extent. Incidentally I am still losing weight - and that is going to cause me some concern if I cant stop that situation soon.

Hope you are well and happy, and wish that you were here.

*if the pay check is delayed
yet and you need a lift
call on me - sure enough -
that's what I want you to
do*

Gordon



Miss Cleo Hankins
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