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July 23, 1966

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Dear Mike:

Sorry I took so long to get around to writing, but in view of the mess I suppose it's just as well. Naturally my feelings on the matter are in accord with those of the rest of your friends - particularly those from whom you have heard. I have talked to Cole at some length so am familiar to some extent with the facts. It is without doubt the ~~sillyest~~ ^{shitiest} piece of business one could imagine. A letter has been posted to the Justice from here expressing that view.

However, I seem to part company with Cole and perhaps you on the handling of the ~~postconviction~~ post conviction remedial (?) process. I fully understand your personal interest, but were it otherwise I would rather see it not let slide the way everybody ~~seems to~~ I have talked with intents to. Principles are fine until they get expensive. That's the name of the game. Brennan does what he wants to do to save himself and you follow in the same manner. Please don't get me wrong, I would not expect to see any man damage his career. It is a personal choice. But that goes for everybody: Brennan, Pope Pius XII, the Germans, American Policy makers and the Chinese. I suppose it covers you as well. No one stood up to McCarthy because it was too dangerous. The world has not changed, and it will not because people are all the same.

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I have heard about your interviews and wish you well with regard to all of them or whichever one you really want. I hope Pam has not taken this too hard, but knowing her ~~is~~ I suppose she is just pissed - which is a good thing. I like to see people pissed, it is at least some indication that they are still alive.

Things here are in a state of flux due to some recent developments about which I shall speak at some later date. Too confusing to go into here. But in any case I will keep you posted as to any relevant developments in the coming weeks. I know you are very busy so feel no obligation to write expediently or ~~at~~ at all.

My love to Pam, John and Katherine.

Best regards,


Al Katz