

Midnight Monday 26 July 1965

Dear Maggie,

Thank you for telephoning tonight and for the enormous encouragement you gave me about the material I have written up. You are the first person who has read any of it—not because I have been secretive but because my cohorts here have been too busy to sit down with the manuscript or part of it (it is now 225 pages, about 75,000 words). Even if they had, they would not have had the command of the material that you have and could not have pointed out serious omissions or distortions. So I am really grateful and gratified that the grassy knoll section seems complete and effective to you, and your generous remarks are a huge shot in the arm.

Will I ever find a publisher? And if I do, am I prepared to sacrifice my job by publishing under my own name? I will have to cross those bridges when I come to them, I suppose; meanwhile, I am continuing to plod through the material and trying to organize the irrational rationally.

I am sending you with this letter some further sections from the manuscript (which I will select after completing this); please feel free to photocopy or otherwise utilize the material in any way that may facilitate your work.

By the way, Lobenthal has made a preliminary selection of witnesses and testimony for the dramatic reading, and I am thoroughly dismayed by his list. I will have to find some time to confer with him, because I would rather forego the whole production than have a poor presentation.

But that is only one of the current worries, the major one being the ambivalent feelings I have about going to Miami, even for a few days—it is so painful to see my father and reawaken the memories of the losses we have both suffered, and so painful also not to have seen him for almost a year. I will probably fly down on Tuesday or Wednesday, August 3 or 4, and return by Friday the 6th.

I look forward to your next letter. Meanwhile, my fondest regards and thanks again for your phonecall tonight.

Enclosed previously

Where Did the Jets Come From?

Who Was Betty Mac Donald?

Enclosed Hereafter

*The Rifle (4 sections)
President & Antagonizing Feelings
Tappet's Moments*