

MAXWELL GEISMAR

WINFIELD HARRISON, N. Y.

April 19, 69

Dear Sylvia,

I am dismayed that my attempted letter of "comfort" backfired so badly, I almost had a suspicion that it ~~might~~ might, a qualm about sending it.

I never knew, nor would I guess that Menahem borrowed money from you; I can't imagine that...He told me he had a certain friend in Israel who gave him personal money for his needs, and that you had discovered this among his statements, etc. This in itself, of course, I did not consider too severely--but not a word about anything else. I am dismayed for his sake as well as yours; I can only hope he will try to return this money to you, which I gather you don't.

Hinkle & Ramparts is another story from the one you have, and I am wondering where you heard this information? I have been on the magazine almost from the start, with John Howard Griffin, under Ed

ps Just for the record, or memory's sake: the first great edition of Ramparts under Hinckle, called MISSISSIPPI EYE WITNESS, re the death of the three boys hidden in the dam, was conceived in our living room since David Spain, who did the autopsy without which there would have been no case of murder (hushed up by authorities and doctors of the University down there)--David met Warren here and we all had the same ~~ex~~ idea, David Welsh was brought into this for research (editor of Eldridge Cleaver's Soul on Ice)

What Keating contributed was a bad, inaccurate essay by a Negro journalist, known to everybody as a f phony, whom Keating had a brief love affair (it seemed) with, rolling around the floor together, and paying this guy lots of cash, who then stole more cash from Ramparts.

I mention this only as an example of why I miss the old mag, and dont belong on the new.

Okay?

m

MAXWELL GEISMAR

WINFIELD, HARRISON, N. Y.

SM 2

and the last evening he was here, he was weeping when he left....That * is the basis for my perverted sense of loyalty to him, which I admit.

Despite all, Warren is a genius of a journalist and still full of brilliant instincts.... He is innately radical at heart, he thinks radical; he is a black anarchist maybe, but much better than the liberal mentality now working on the magazine which picks Susan Sontag to represent the New Left. Geesus!

~~Geesus~~ Well you are right as always, about Mark Lane, too, of course, which I suspected...but the real loss is Arnoni & the magazine, which Bill Rose of the Guardian (a very good guy) told me was his favorite left magazine... I can't believe Arnoni would do this to you in his normal state, still...that is what confounds me...But don't shuck me off now, because I need you to straighten out my notions.

all best,

over = V



Keating....who is one half very good; the other half literally nuts: he cannot sustain any one line of thought, work, etc. The mag was a rather dull ecumenical magazine in which I had the lead article in their first "Jewish" issue.

But Keating did very nutty things even when Warren was editing the magazine under him...he was going broke, Ed...and the magazine was about through anyway, when Warren took it over.

-To Hinckle's credit, it is his staff, his people, who now run Ramparts: he brought the whole group together, including Doug Starmer, art editor, Don Duncan, and all the rest of them; Warren brought in Scheer...the mag, including the great debunking articles of 5 years, was entirely Warren's...

His main trouble, outside of all the rest, is that he could not work with his staff, or make the mag work, but it just wont be the same mag without him...I also doubt that he has raised the cash for a new mag, or new luxury; I think he is now isolated and tragic (I wonder about his future)