

Midlothian, Texas
January 22, 1966

Dear Sylvia,

Thank you so much for your very kind, very intelligent, and your very thoughtful letter. Yes, what you said is absolutely true - but down here we play FOR KEEPS.

Probably I'm getting a little more resigned to the situation. Yes, as you say, "Penn is incapable of chickening out." Well, that's for sure. And the boys and I wouldn't have it any other way. He'll risk death, framing - he's just that type when a principle is involved. The G-1 told me some years ago (and he was cold sober), "Penn is the most respected man in the 36th Division."

Sylvia, you can't cage these people. It would destroy them. To me, you, Shirley, Penn and others are crusaders. And there's nothing the matter with that. It's great.

I've sent you some background on Penn. And if you want any more, we have a stack 4 feet high.

The reason the pages about Penn are torn out is this: The editor of RAMPARTS and two of his writers flew in from California, and we gave him those articles. Evidently they had to cut those pages out to duplicate them. When you're through with this material, please return it to us. We've given away most of these particular magazines, Sunday sections, etc.

Now you say, "...we have a new, rich, powerful prestigious ally - RAMPARTS.."
Honey, that's all true, but unfortunately, they are not rich. Not by a damn sight. But the three who visited us were fine men, excellent minds.

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Changing the talk from Ruffles to Tuffles: Have you ever met Shirley Martin? Aside from being very good-looking (Prematurely gray hair which she wears in a delightful flip) there's just something about her that Penn and I like very much. She's courageous; very, very thorough - but best of all, she thinks like man. No namby-pamby about this kid.
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We'll be hearing from you, and thanks for everything.

L.A.

Louise Jones*

* I've been called "L. A." for so long, probably wouldn't answer to Louise. But when writing to someone I don't know, it just sounds so goofy to use the nickname.