

19 July 1967

Dear Ray,

Thank you for sending me your letters to Midgley, which are masterful and with which I concur fully. I had also written to CBS in advance of the program, much in the same sense although not in the same detail and thoroughness as your letter; and I wrote a 4-page single-space commentary after their scandalous and revolting propoganda ploy. As I am away from my office for this whole month, I was hard put for copies (how I miss that xerox machine!) and am very sorry that I don't have copies to send you. I will try to do so later, if you care to have them; but the essence of the letters I wrote will be reflected in a review of the CBS affair which is scheduled for the September TMO.

I greatly appreciate your renewed invitation to visit you, and I would dearly like to see you and Letha again, and Boston. But my situation makes it really impossible for the moment. The page proofs of my book arrived in New York this morning and are this moment en route by messenger. I will have to lock myself up and concentrate on them, and do the index, for however long it takes—a week, perhaps two. Meanwhile, I had delivered yesterday by messenger the ms. of Thompson's book. Long ago I had promised to read and check the citations, and he has insisted that this be on a contractual rather than a purely personal basis. It is rather an imposing task and responsibility, which I had originally expected to do much earlier. However, he was behind with his ms. and it comes now, simultaneously with my own page proofs.

The joint tasks will undoubtedly consume what is left of my "vacation" (I have worked harder since it started on July 1st than I had been working while I was going to the office—had part of the apartment painted; managed to spend two days with my greatnieces in the country—had bushels of correspondence, reading, and the aftermath of the CBS whitewash—visiting firemen—etc. etc.). I am due back in the office on the first Monday in August; and last week, we had quite a bad shock when Dr. Thomen (second in command, I am third) suddenly died. So the workload will be heavy, and I will have serious difficulty in taking any more time off in August.

I have explained this all in detail, lest you think that I am reluctant to accept your invitation because of our differences about Garrison. I remain hopeful that these differences will be very short-lived (whether I come to change my views, which I only wish I could, or whether you and the others change). And I would like in every way to protect my long and greatly valued and genuinely warm relationship with you, and with Vince and others, from being affected by differences on Garrison. Perhaps this is not realistic; certainly, an inhibition and a guarding of one's words seem unavoidable—I don't want to offend my closest friends and colleagues, but neither can I hide or change views which I hold strongly and which for me involve a matter of conscience. If I was free to visit you, I would do so—with a certain amount of foreboding and anxiety, which you too might feel. But as I have explained, it just isn't possible to contemplate a visit, under the present pressures and deadlines.

I still love you and Letha, and I always will.