

Just got your note on Worrell. No; I haven't heard any more on this and haven't talked to Penn since last Sunday week. Penn sounded tired and discouraged; I think the TIME sarcasm had hurt, for which I don't blame him. TIME can be so irrelevant and cutting.

Have you had the ~~Black~~ Blackstar people yet? It was a terrible experience, having to sit for a picture and then know all you people might see it. But I will see you too. That is, if any of it is done. Do you have any idea what they want it for? Mrs. O. bawled me out for not charging them. I laughed at her (and this she CANNOT stand); she wants money, money, money. What a repulsive woman she is. She ~~wrote~~ called again (after the last conversation I told you about) asking me to write to RAMPARTS telling them she would be willing to undergo a "paid" interview. It is her opinion that all the articles written about Lee, all the books, etc., were stolen from ideas and remarks of hers. She is bitter against almost everyone--and for the first time (in my hearing) made what sounded like a threat, that she would "take care of Mark Lane if he didn't watch out." I told her I would write to RAMPARTS--and I did. I feel sorry for her, but I detest her. She is the most unfair, prejudiced woman in the world, willing to go to almost absurd lengths to cheat and subvert justice, while at the same time screaming for justice for herself. She is furious because Jackie Kennedy has SS protection and an allowance for mail; she wants the same benefits for herself, or, at least, a reduction of income tax, or some such nonsense. She is after me to find her an attorney who will sue the government for benefits for herself such as the Kennedys (and the Eisenhowers and the Trumans) enjoy. Oh, brother; she is a drag. I realize she gets worse every November. This is the third ('64, '65 and now '66) November I have gone through with her and it isn't easy. She is determined somehow to punish everyone of the investigators who ~~has~~ not "consulted" with her before daring to write their articles. "I am the key," she says. She is quite, quite mad. She broke down and cried two or three times, but I have learned it is an act. She is like a little child in a tantrum.

I appreciated the remark allegedly made by RFK and printed in THE NATION: that any action precipitated by RFK generally brought about the opposite reaction from the White House. The events of the past two weeks have been interesting. I wonder ~~if~~ if LBJ will "retire" one of these days, only to have Gen. Westmoreland take his place at the '68 convention? I am told American troops will land in North Vietnam after January and that small nuclear weapons will be used. I have also read--somewhere--that no American general has ever won the presidency without first winning some major war.

I doubt very much that RFK can defeat Westmoreland at the polls in '68 with a major North Vietnamese land victory behind him. China remains incalculable--unless the military really is smarter than I think. (I don't think it is.) In addition, if RFK comes close to usurping Westmoreland at the polls, he (RFK) will be killed, as his brother was, or in some less easily detectable way. I think RFK knows this; I think he has been aware for three years now that his death is just a matter of time.

Last week's voting pattern was exactly what Penn had predicted to me six months

ago. I think it was part of the plan too. LBJ dropped out of campaigning at the very last, leaving HHH and RFK to take the blame for not bringing in Brown and Co. The false liberalism of the LBJ Congress is over--just as it was planned. Shriver is about to go out (ideologically if not actually); Civil Rights has had it as a liberal cause celebre; all the selfish, right-wing things about America that we have detested for so long (and stupidly ignored) are now about to be celebrated. None of this means very much in ordinary times--aside from the much suffering that human nature always endures. If the times were as they were before, the pendulum would swing back; but this time we have great ways to wage war which may not give way to a new heaven and a new earth, as we keep saying after every stupid, worthless battle.

In short, we are in for it. Only the proof of the Kennedy assassination could halt this thing. But the proof may be non-existent. The only other alternative is RFK, and he knows that, along with the non-existent proof is a lethal matter of some kind waiting for him. I doubt very much that this country will be rescued. I think the radicals are much too splintered and too jealous and too envious. Even the radicals are saturated with a sick materialism. No, we are in for it. There are small green shoots of another chance here and there; I see it in certain members of the Catholic clergy, for example. But their great benefit will be for the world and not in time for this country. Nor do I see leaders of any group, right, left, middle, with the discipline to survive the next few years, with the exception of the Kennedys. Even the Cassidy's, the Savio's, the Lynds, none of them have the ascetic discipline necessary; they will be useful, but not extraordinary.

I think Fenn is right. It is a lost cause, but we had better go down fighting. Maybe everything is in my mind. Will LBJ recover and run in '68? Will HHH be President in '72? Will the war be negotiated? Will the U.S. agree that the Vietcong must be represented xxx at any peace conference? If all these things come about then perhaps we can avert WW 3000. But it will hardly change human nature any, will it?

Teresa's teacher is coming for tea today. I had better clean up this damn house. Much, much love. PLEASE write. S.