

4 May 1967

Dear Shirley,

Thank you for your long letter of the 1st of May, I really appreciate it. Like you, I was unnerved and troubled by the Saturday Evening Post article. I was hardly reassured by Sciambria's flat denial, which explained nothing. The press coverage here is so inadequate that I have finally subscribed to the New Orleans States-Item, although copies have not yet started to arrive. Perhaps I can form a better picture of what is going on there when I start receiving the local paper.

I have been looking for the Bee-Line book "Jackie Bobby and Manchester" but have not seen it anywhere, or any other books from that publishing house. It is an unfamiliar brand name. Can you give me some further information, as to where and by whom it is published, so that I can send direct to the publishers for a copy? I would certainly like to read it, as I have strong feelings about the Manchester book (I have reviewed it for the June TMO; I am afraid that you will not like my review, which is negative from beginning to end).

Last night I saw MacBird. It was a great experience, cathartic in some ways, also saddening and frightening--that we have come to this. There is much truth in the play; perhaps even the ultimate truth. The actor who plays RFK really looks a lot like him, and is able to reproduce his speech with weird fidelity. The man who plays LBJ MacBird does a marvelous job; but no actor, however brilliant, could really succeed in projecting the full foulness and utter evil of the man. Did you read "The Accidental President" by Robert Sherill? Don't miss this book: it is as direct, uncompromising, and damning a book as has ever been written about this or any other American politician, makes the blood run cold and also boil with rage and disgust. Only in America...

Yes, the super-patriots' march was a total flop. They advertised 150,000 but could muster only something over 3,000. The anti-war march, which was a really inspiring demonstration, is said to have gathered 100,000 to 125,000 but I am certain the real figure is much closer to 500,000. None of which seems to impress the hawks, except that they told us where we--the--people get off by setting off a new escalation. They don't even bother to pretend any more that they are a government of the people, for the people, etc. And I fear that we can no longer exert any control over what is done--not even next year, when we will have to choose between a pair of hawks. The only way out that I can see would be for huge numbers of draftees, in the tens of thousands and the hundreds of thousands, to refuse to serve, to fill all the jails if necessary...and I see no real sign of such a movement.

I didn't know that RFK had met with Lynd and I don't even know who Hayden is! Shows you how out of touch I have been with the outside world. I do read The Nation but perhaps I overlooked something. ## I share your surprise about the M in History, suddenly non-telephonic. I was rejoicing that she had ceased to call me--I had gotten to a state where I was apprehensive when the phone rang--but I didn't realize that it was a general policy on her part. What can it mean????? ## You really surprise me when you say that Mike Lester is diffident about getting in touch with me. I didn't know that he was aware of my existence at all, and certainly there is no reason for him to hesitate to call me. I'd be delighted to hear from him. I'm told that he did the JFK kit that was put out in England but barred from this country. It is a very good job indeed. Please tell him so when you are next in touch with him. ## Dear Shirley, may all go well with you at this difficult moment in your life. I am thinking about you, and wishing there was some way in which I could be of comfort. If you go to San Francisco, maybe you could get into Ramparts? A job would be the greatest thing, both emotionally and psychologically, to say nothing of the money. Much love, dear,