

Replied by  
hand 9/24/86

September 22, 1986

Dear Sylvia:

Carol Anne called yesterday and asked if I have the Torbitt manuscript. I said, "Yes, I have reams of it."

In 1969, Bud Fensterwald and Patty were driving from Washington to New Orleans via Dallas. They came by my house late one Saturday evening and they were driving out the next morning, Sunday morning, on to New Orleans. Just before they left my house, Bud asked me if I had seen the Torbitt manuscript. I had not. He said he had a copy but had promised not to let anyone Xerox it. He let me take a look at it and, when I begged to keep it overnight, he said I could if I would promise not to go some place and Xerox it. It was almost 11 p.m. and was unlikely that I could find a Xerox machine at that time of night in 1969... He let me keep it overnight to read and came back the next morning at 9 a.m. to pick it up. He had a cup of coffee in my kitchen and we discussed the thing. I told him it was a complete mess, but he seemed to think it had some merit.

I had been up all night typing every word of the manuscript. I had then underlined everything that was underlined in Bud's original. I made all the notations in the same places they appeared in the original. Typos are my originals!

Since 1969, I have received several hundred pages of the manuscript which are only elaborations on the themes in this edition. I have Xeroxed a copy of the first version for you. You may keep this. If you want the entire version, I'll let Carol Anne bring it to you Christmas and you may read it or copy it, if you desire. Believe me, there is nothing worth reading in any of it.

Incidentally, the author of this thing was Dave Copeland, a lawyer who was a good friend of Penn Jones for many years. I met him many times and was never impressed with his ability as a lawyer. Reading this manuscript did not do anything for my impression of his ability as a writer.

Love,

