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26 April 68

Dear Mrs Meagher,

Thanks for your 20 April & for what it said, & for your offer to pass along TMO prints. The first thing I did after getting your letter, after popping open another can of beer, was to sit down & order a TMO subscription. Not that you might have talked me into it, but you did provide me with the address & then break me down with the last straw: about TMO somehow managing to offend Everybody.

I thought I had found something like that some months ago, having before that read a couple of things about the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI), Santa Barbara Calif. I had read about CSDI first thru right-wing sources, and what they had to say alerted me. Then one day, out of the clear blue, I got a printed mail order solicitation from CSDI describing what & who they were & what they were wanting to do & etc. And naturally, somehow, I ~~###~~ believed it. The blurb I got convinced me that here, at long last, I'd be hearing a running dialogue between left & right & etc, & that here I would be wit~~#~~nessing Progress & Hope & all that baloney.

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But the dialogue (their word) has turned out to be more monolog~~#~~ish than anything else. Not that the monologue isn't often nice, of course, but if I want to read poetry then I'll go out & buy a goddam book of poems. Real Controversy is so scarce it could be bought ~~##~~ by the page. And I wish it could be. Little dirty boys could peddle it on the street. (Pssst, Mister...) (Wanna buy some dirty facts?...) Well, maybe the CSDI thing I was so hopeful about is simply too sophisticated a thing for me to dig, and it is giving me what I want without my knowing it. Maybe straight English is too much for anybody to hope for. Apart from all other complaints, it seems that everything has to be written on about eight different levels in order to "accommodate" everybody. It ought not be so, according to my own subjective view of how things ought to be. Anything that is organized on the basis of deceit can't last, no matter how ~~###~~ old it already is. Anyway, maybe TMO will provide a little relief~~##~~. Even if he is too small to make a dent, that is.

*Unfurnished & unmailed, but enclosed -*