

28 April 68

Dear Mrs M,

Maybe this one is following too hard on the heels of my last, but I want to add a couple of things about your 20 April. My sides still hurt from giggling to myself at some parts of it. But anyway I think I am giggling with you rather than at you, which is nice.

Somehow I feel that (Ha!)... that the "supercilious jackass and his confreres" might not be either supercilious or jackassy. Such types are probably necessary to whatever game is going on, & without doubt are being recruited. And with alacrity, yet! But I cannot believe that the ones you mention or allude to are as naive as you seem to suggest. Also, I do not think you believe it yourself. # Why they do as they do, I don't know. Perhaps each one for his own reason, whatever it is. It is all very puzzling, and I simply don't pretend for an instance that I know the answer, because I just plain don't.

All I know anymore is that if a ##### damned Ghost came up to me tonight & said "Steffen, drop dead", I'd probably say Yessir & drop dead. This is more than I'd do for a Congressman, # or for some Feebee, etc. Seems that whoever is running this show ## running it quite right, or else there wouldn't be unhappy people like me around isn't

gripping about fundamental things. I have the crazy notion that anybody can tolerate anything as long as it is put straight to them from the beginning. Learning later in life that everything is not what it seemed to be is bound to be a shock, whether the new knowledge comes about at age 15 or 35 or 65. And look, here I am writing a letter # about it. Oddly, the little green men are a thing I could get to accept overnight even if I never saw any little green men, which I never have. But I am bugged with the idea that our government, governments, just aren't squaring with their own people. If a government anywhere is not based on honesty, then what is that government?

Etc.

I agree with your remark re the SEP article, that you "didn't think it was very much, one way or the other...". That is Exactly what shook me up so much. Same as with that 6 second thing they printed some months earlier, whoever the Honorable Gent was who wrote it. I ## forgot his name, and I am glad. Our "free press" seems already overloaded with crud that doesn't amount to much. One way or the other.

Yes, I will be going back to sea before long. I have a couple of aging soc sec parents to worry about, so I have not much choice. But this would not be my reason for saying whatever I said about no longer writing you. What I had in mind was that you could better spend ### your time doing whatever you are doing rather than answering letters from people who ##### don't have anything specifically useful to write you about.

I correspond regularly with only one person re JFK, UFOs, MLK, etc, and that is with Mrs Hartmann.