

1/24/68

Dear Tink,

Thanks for your handwritten note and the copy of your letter to the L.A. Free Press. I have also received from Marcus a copy of his ten-page letter of 1/12/68 to you. But you have not received a copy of his seven-page letter of 1/18/68 to me, which Ray shared only with Arnoni and Salandria. Although Ray himself characterized his letter to me as "brutely frank" and certain to shock me and inflict great pain, since it pained him (though less) to write it, I have to say that it did not fulfill his expectations. It has one passage --on "Whose Stretcher?" vs "Which Stretcher?" which is a comic masterpiece; and the remainder is nearly as comical, weighed down though it is by his sanctimony and sermonizing.

But don't feel cheated: nothing in his letter to me is quite so mirth-producing as his quite solemn denunciation of your lousy manners on the occasion of your encounter with Maggie Field at the Salandria residence last February. (Let's never let Ray know why we were really closeted in Vince's office together, eh?)

Arnoni, on reading his copy of Ray's letter to me, urged me to make no reply whatever, and I am inclined to agree with him. Nothing will be more unbearable to this self-righteous prig than to be ignored. May I suggest that you, too, discontinue your attempts to "reach" an unreachable? You will save a lot of wear and tear, and lose nothing. (If you need a good laugh, you can always read Garrison's pronouncements.)

I expect I'll attend the discussion of the shots next Monday, at which I'm told the panel will consist of yourself, Salandria, and Sprague. See you then, fellow-agent.