

8/11/70

Dear Steve,

Although more than usually jammed up, I reply to your letter of 7/27 immediately because so much of it pleases me so very much. It is not youth but maturity that I see in it, and much less new than perhaps you think.

I recalled the name Erquiaga after writing you and my other checks on it produced no more.

Some of the things you say are your present thinking. In some case, they will undergo changes or modifications. Basically, they are, as I see things, right.

One of the changes I forecast is that you will again judge by your own concept of morality (not the zippered fly kind), and you will come to expect a decent concept of morality from others. Good and bad are not always absolutes, nor are they always unchanging. But such things as stealing (in its various forms), hurting (under most circumstances) you will not find to your liking in people.

You appear not to recall that your comments on good and evil are not original. Plato (I think in Cebesit has been so long!) said things exist by opposites, day by comparison with night and good by comparison with bad. Without bad, what is good? Even Boccaccio said "Dolor determineth imminent joyance".

You will find that you will again spend some time with the media, for despite the validity of your comments, you'll decide you really have to and want to. I have always had contacts with (and preserve) a wide variety, ranging to even the editor of a N.O. daily. I have friendships and connections with what is regarded as the right. The reason you cannot point to my appraisal of a pib in terms of its attitude to the WR is because I never did it and was opposed to some who pretended to be on "our side". I regard Lunkin as never there, for example (By the way, do you know anything about his Stanley J. Marks, who seems legitimately looney?).

Perhaps you should have said (or intended) of your generation (the best one to date) that "many of us see the route to change in different directions", rather than "a different direction". No one has a monopoly on error. If your question about who changed people is not rhetorical, then I must say that for the most part it is your generation. Perhaps LBJ helped a bit? And one you do not mention, JFK? Mitchell? Nixon?

Love, too, is a variable, meaning different things in its various senses to different people. But discovering any of them is great. I differ with you in your belief that you will not change the world with your love. In changing your own generation with it, as you expect, can you do other than change the world? And why were you lusted for wearing sunglasses? Is that the whole story?

I've been interrupted and must now prepare for an appearance in court tomorrow. I've just learned of it. I've won the first Freedom of Information suit vs Justice in assassination suppression and I have what they suppressed on Ray, in my possession. We're still on the same frequency, in different ways. I'm about to file a number more...Don't bounce too hard or too far...or get more catholic than the pope. And remember, if you'd teach him religion, you have to go to church yourself. Good luck. You sound fine. Sincerely,

4411 Allott #12  
Sherman Oaks, Calif. 91403  
27 July 1970

Dear Harold,

Have received your note of July 22.

The arms outfit you are referring to is probably Erquiaga Arms Co. of the City of Industry, California (near Central City, L.A. incorporated from an industrial area to avoid school taxes, etc. on industrial land). The only reliable reference I know of is in the Calif. AG report which I sent notes of to you. I've never obtained a copy and it has been out of print for years. L.A. Sheriff busted Juan Erquiaga on March 26, 1965 for possession illegal arms. The AG associated (whatever that means) Juan with Robert Romero, Keith Gilbert (Minutemen) and Terrel Eddy (NSRP). The Bradley sources (which I consider unreliable) have described Romero and Gilbert as small time punks, followers of Houghton and Mower.

Where I'm at right now is a long story, one which I feel no need to go into. My head is at a place which is so far from the days of our association that words quite literally do not mean the same things to me now that they once did. I've discovered my youth, something that was lost to me as I played at adulthood. I've discovered people -- of all kinds and types -- they are basically good and nice to me and I dig it. I no longer judge everything by my morality, or rather my concept of morality, because homogeneity is boredom for me. I no longer find the world such a den of evil because I have opened my eyes to see the good that exists simultaneously. I do not wish to purge the world of evil because, in that event, to say or feel that something is good would be tantamount to saying that something is, period. What a drag.

I do not read newspapers or watch TV because I know from personal experience that they are so unreliable as to be more than worthless. I think that before, my choice of what to read had more to do with what agreed with my pre-conceptions than with accuracy. Wasn't it ridiculous for many of us to judge the worth of a publication on the grounds of (primarily) what they had done to fight the Warren Report et. al.? I can't point to where you did that, but I know I did and too many of us in L.A. and JG and ML did it..

The whole concept of one's social obligation has been re-examined by me, and a part of my generation. Many of us see the route to change in a different direction. We've lived through a decade that has seen more attention paid to social change than any decade I can think of. I ask you, who changed more people, who changed the shapings of our society, most effectively? Was it JG or ML? Was it LBJ? Was it Bob Sheer or Izzie Stone? Was it RFK or JFK? Was it Tim Leary and Babba Ram Das and El Mescalito?

The diseases which plague our society are not diseases of left and right. The disease is in the eye that sees left and right as alternatives. Capitalism and Communism cause ~~equivalent~~ equivalent pollution of the world and the mind. Rousseau and Hobbes vie closely for first in the arena of authoritarianism. Alternative political actions exist within a dialectic, a whole that accepts premises of legislation, government, categorization, moralization, and authoritarianism.

The answer, for me, is neither thesis nor antithesis nor synthesis.

While I was the social crusader, I ignored many shortcomings in myself. The fact is, I didn't know who I was, where I was, or what I was, or what I was doing. In my judgmental head, I was putting down people by the thousand. I was contemptuous of beings alike unto myself. I was putting down myself. I was treating the world in a most unloving way, a most hostile way, a most condescending way. But, alas, that is why there is so much unhappiness and grief. Sure, my rhetoric was great. But my reality made me a participant in the shit that is America. Don't the 'others', whose rhetoric may be less sweet, treat men in an unloving way, a most hostile way, a most condescending way? What is the difference? Is the way Kunking and Christian have treated you any better than the way GM would treat you? Would Rockefeller make you feel any less in his eyes?

The answer, for me, for now, is to do and be what I want the world to do and be. Curiously, a small part of my generation is doing it to.

I'm not so foolish as to really think that we will change the world with our love. But we are changing a generation. Nine-year-olds consistently flash the peace sign. My youngest sister's high school struck and half sang "We shall overcome" where I was busted thrice for wearing sunglasses on campus. It's not politics, any longer, its culture that is changing. And let's face it, Nixon does-represent the

America of today. Whatever else may be said of LBJ, the cold hard fact is that he never lost majority support for his course in the war.

"Power to the People" means machine-guns on campus. Politics is power.  
Power is repression. Every Lenin will be followed by a Stalin.

I respect. I respect what is. Nothing else could be viable  
given the current mind of America as determined by our heritage.  
Change is inevitable. Woodstock is now part of that heritage.  
And there will be more.

I really hope you are happy, Harold. A farm is a good place to  
be happy.

I am.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve".