

1/19/67

Dear L.S.

My back feels good where you 'N Penn Been scratchin it! Thanks.

Just returned from two pretty long days in NYC with a tower of wonderful mail to answer, a bunch more new things to catch up on, no writing done for a month, and too many other things.

Spoke to Sylvia by phone. Had dinner last night with Jones Harris, who I'd never met before, finished up on the Barry Gray show at 11, having begun the day with the four-hour taping of a special aired today on WOR at 10:15 a.m. They had planned a two-hour show. They let it run, advertised it in the Times, and are running it again as soon as they can reempt an evening. They've cancelled Commercials, even newscasts, for it, and their format is 15 minutes of news each hour.

Sauvage was with me, against Nizer and Charles Roberts of Newsweek. Sylvia had told me of Nizer, but I find he exceeds ever her generous delineation of his great faults of character. He corrupted the whole damned thing before we got there, confronted us with a fait accompli, and I made clear on the air what had been done and then, having to fight both him and the moderator, prepared his viscera for scattering by those wonderful 50,000 watts today. The station broke its agreement to give my address. Once I'd mentioned that I live in Maryland. People are still going to all the trouble to find this hamlet and phone me with the most wonderful messages.

Sauvage was very good, in his own quiet way, against both Nizer and Roberts. I concentrated on Nizer. This man is just short of 100% corrupt. The one honest thing I was able to detect in him is the recognition that he knows damned well what he is doing. I wish I'd thought of answering one of his endless slanders with the recollection that his sudden interest in the honor and integrity of the government just happens to coincide with his necessities in promoting his new book. He may find among some of his peers and I have found from a few of the ordinary people that a jury he was not expecting may have returned. Nizer is an instant expert, manufacturing and inventing "evidence" with each twist of his forked tongue. Except for the tongue bit, after proving it to his face I told him this, in just those words, on the air. I hope it is effective as I think it will be. I'm looking forward to the next time, with this experience to guide me then. There is more I should have done, but with the moderator openly partisan and blatantly against me, I think I did as much as I could time-wise, anyway. I'm hoping one of those who know the subject heard it and can let me know how I did. We are never the best judges of this ourselves.

I didn't plan to go into all of this. The purpose of this hasty note is to tell you that if there is anything we should know about Tom, let us know. He's in Baltimore tonight. I'm meeting him in Washington in the morning. He's already asked Sylvia to meet him (and I do not see how she now can), and is going to see Vince while he is up here.

Our best to you all, including Batman and Robin, and even if there is a Robinette. Schiller and Capitol have been silent. They've not answered my letter, not sent me the offered and promised copies, not accepted my public challenges, and have left alone all those many things I have said, on both coasts, about them. And their use of Batman. And Penn.

Sincerely,

Harold

January 16, 1967

Dear Shirley and Harold - mostly both,

Great Scott, Harold, you scared the pants off me on the Capitol Records thing. It was BAD, that's for sure, but not that bad. True, Shirley, it was rough on you, but your lovely picture will help some.

Shirley, for Christ's sake, don't you realize that when they want someone to appear great, they use the words like "wise", "experienced" "objective". Personally, I would like to use a word on them..... (Unmentionable).

And when they wish - they meaning Schiller - want Mark, etc., then they go in for "wily", "scheming"....My personal comment: @#%&* (Unmentionable).

That damn Schiller... taped Penn.. then came to our house for cookies*, told Penn how much Penn's contribution meant to history. When he left, I said, "What a nice man." @#%&* (Unmentionable).

→ U think
now-

The Batman thing on Penn is almost funny, and I must write our oldest boy in Venezuela - have already dashed off a note to our youngest at the University of Michigan - to the effect that Daddy has had considerable kidding about the Batman pictures. BUT - the Batman pictures will remain until Penn III returns and chooses to take them down.

Harold, when you asked me about those kooky pictures, I really wondered how you knew. Yes, they are in our shop. But Lovable Shiller or whatever his @#%&* name is, put Penn, as I understnad it, in sort of a fake picture.

The truth of the pictures is this, and I don't think Penn will ever defend himself on this count. Our two boys had these nutsy pictures. As you know, we are a pretty hard-kidding family. So when Penn was gone, the two boys got a ladder and put up the big thing on Batman and Bunny, or whatever his name is... We all thought it was funny. We still do.

We will never complain. Never explain. But what old Capitol Records \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ doesn't realize is: They caught the TWO HORN HONKS on their tape. We were in L. A. last night and Mort Sahl took it out of the record on tape.. and ran it. Bless his ever lovin' heart.....

* An expression we use for someone who has come to our home and accepted our hospitality.

only at Arnoni's lecture

Take it slightly easy on Tom Bethell - our house guest. He's ok, but ALWAYS send a CARBOX to me. Send it; Louise A. Jones, Midlothian, Tex. Change RETURN! ADDRESS. He's all right - but we always want a carbon!

Sylvia came down from Victoria (lecture thing) at the same time Penn and I were there. We stayed with Ray and Letha Marcus, were with Maggie, met Lillian for the first time, saw Bill again.

Everything was like old home week, except the Martins and the Weisbergs weren't there... Saw Lifton and wondered. Maybe he's OK, I wouldn't know...

Arnoni was the Real Guest, not us. He seems brilliant and wonderful to me. Comments?

So many fine things were said about you two.. And Harold, honey, since we seem to be in and out of so many airports, I have a big thing going for you...Any airport, I hit the book counter, "Do you have WHITEWASH?" "I'm not sure." "Of course you do. It's the greatest book on the assassination."

"I'll see."

"Please do... I'm doing some research."

"I don't seem to find it."

"I think we' sold out, miss."

"OK, Chicago always has ALL THE BIG BOOKS. I'll catch it there."

How about that, old buddy, old buddy? Works great. Penn was so tired coming home, and he teased me, said, "Why in hell don't you go in and ask for FORGIVE MY GRIEF?"

I said, "Because, Mrs. Jones, we don't stock it" would be their answer....Mort gave WHITEWASH II a big plug on his show with a close-up of your book.

Everybody cool it. A ten year old idiot could figure that record out. And I'm just that ten year old idiot.

Shirley, we have called every operator in Tulsa to try to talk to you tonight. WHEN, pray tell us, are you going to have a telephone?... Started to call Harold, but realized it was either 12:30 or 1:30 his time! Depending on what time it is.*

Now...children.....Chins up, all!

Thank Heavens, Harold, you warned us... Heavens to Betsy, if that was the WORST thing that had been ~~said~~ said about Penn we'd be lucky indeed...Lillian is beginning to come out from her state of shock in the loss of her husband, and she needs to be needed. Says - not one soul has used the material she has furnished them.

*What time is it? Dallas time, that is.

Could you write her and ask her something?
She's GREAT

Love to Lillian and friendship to you - h.a.