

10/21/66

Dear L.A.,                    sharing

No point in ~~answering~~ the address with that old <sup>word</sup> runner. He's never home! But it seems that he's doing worlds of good and did a bang-up job on the west coast. Had a letter from Bill and a visit from Ray Marcus earlier this week. I also hear that Ramparts treated Penn well. <sup>It</sup> is about time. I think the situation right now is made for that mysterious death stuff. I sure wish it were possible for you to be in Washington soon, for the local affiliate of WNEW-TV is really trying for that show. The NY people have made 35 TV spots, in DC they're going to place newspaper ads, try and get me on some talk shows, and if there is schedule space, interview me for 15 minutes in advance of airing (8-11 p.m. 11/12 in DC) to plug the show. If there is anything that will bring you up this way, please let me know so I can see what I can do. I think I might be able to get Penn on the radio.

Glad you told me about LIFE, for I've not looked at a magazine for weeks. Frankly, I didn't recognize you with clothes on! Or have I overworked that? Too bad they didn't use this in the caption. I prefer the Texas weather on Penn's face, that doesn't show in the picture.

Your kids are having a rough time. Hope the pain and discomfort leave them soon. We'll have to make it a point to watch the Cronkite show. Your letter isn't clear, but I hope it is that they are sending someone down to film and interview. We should slow down, but right now we just cannot. I know whatever my trouble is, it isn't gall bladder. They made some tests yesterday, including an electrocardiogram (I have no reason to expect any heart trouble) and they'll peek at the upper guts early election morning, the first opening the lab has.

*Whe*  
Got the Saturday Review night before last. Wrote and whaled the hell out of that literary whore in judges robes, and today laced Norman Cousins a bit, challenging them, either or both, to a debate, in their pages or elsewhere. A radio station in Phila (WCAU), which has been wonderful on this subject, also whopped the judge around a bit, <sup>for</sup> the man who runs their night-time talk program, and <sup>seems to know</sup> Vince and me. I understand he gave us a glowing tribute as soon as he got that awful judge off his chest. His producer, a very sweet girl, phoned yesterday to tell me about it and I asked them to challenge the judge publicly to appear on that show with me.

*(SR)*  
They treated me even worse than Penn, who they ignored, even editing and altering my cover, something I've never heard of. The abdication of the so-called intellectuals is still a shocking thing to me.

No, I'm not at all sure I should write that fellow. I'm thinking it over all the time. It is easy for him to deny anything I quote him on if he sees me. Of course, if he refuses to see me, I can always send him a registered letter. It will not be too long before I get around to that. Meanwhile, I'm thinking about it and I have something else in mind that might solve it.

By the way, should you ever get up this way again and know when you are, I think it would be good if we could speak to the Jack McKinney show on WCAU. They would want Penn, I think, and they are clear-channel, covering the whole eastern side of the country. They have perhaps the best-informed audience on this subject (Sylvia was there last week, and I understand did very well) and it is vast.

Our best to all of you, and thanks from us both.

Sincerely,

Oct, 19

We plan to send you what you want tomorrow. Shouldn't be too hard. I mean exterior only.

After we came back from the West Coast, we went to the Michigan-Purdue game. Meanwhile, our son and his wife had come in from Puerto Rico, with ten days to wind things up before they leave for Venezuela. Our son was required to have four wisdom teeth pulled, and his wife had two. (I don't know why).

Now I've been through the same thing, as has our youngest, and while it's no picnic, I never thought it would be like this.

When I saw those two kids, I thought for a minute I was going to cry. They should have been hospitalized. In four days they had each lost 15 lb., and I'm no lily-liver, but they didn't HAVE any necks, the swelling was so grotesque; and the pain must have been darn near unbearable. The stitches will be removed today, and in the morning they catch an extremely early flight. Even their posture was somewhat crouched.

Oh, well, enough of that. But I never felt so sorry for two kids in my whole life. And it wasn't just because they are our kids.

Say, honey, if you want to see two old ugly familiar faces, look on page 66, LIFE, Oct. 21....Left to right we are Bill Turner (Ramparts); Penn; Ed Keating (owner and publisher of RAMPARTS; me - and I'm so glad that I'm obscure, stringy hair, wrinkled clothes) - Dick Stark, ass't producer of Mark Lane's RUSH TO JUDGMENT TV thing, and Louise Lacey (Ramparts).... Don't know what the others felt, but I was singularly unimpressed with Rev. Boyd. Somehow or other, you just can't mix up true religion with prayers, expressions that are tasteless past the point of vulgarity, etc. Meanwhile being accompanied by classic guitar.

It sounds as though you and Lillian should possibly slow down a little bit. Listen, my friends, you've got to live and feel well. Because you are very important.

A TV thing for Walter Kronkite is due to arrive tonight, possibly tomorrow. The more Penn takes this in his usual peppy way, the more withdrawn I feel. Please understand, I like people. I love people, but maybe 5 or 6 is enough for me at one time....Mike is just like his old man. An 80,000 crowd doesn't bother him. He did a pretty good job last Saturday at the game. 18, freshman, featured twirler.

The University of Michigan Band is GLORIOUS, described in the N. Y. Times as the best band in the world. They have travelled all over Europe, even Russia.

Do you think you should write this fellow? All he has to do is ignore your letter. Do you think it better to take someone with you? The two sound better to me, but I'm no expert.

With friendship,

L.A.

Yes, I will find out what it that I take before flights...Pressurized planes are SO DIFFERENT. I had trouble only once, and it was brief. But I never take chance.