1/24/71

Dear Gary,

With 15-20 minutes before I have to dress for dinner (we're going out for it, to see old friends-both ways) and with no book in which I'm interested and started, I write because you have been on my mind much,lately, because you were one it when I awakened this a.m., because my thinking then led me to some tentative conslusions on which, when you have time, I'd like your appraisal, and because the combination of your silence for so long before you went on Xmas vacation and since are not, in my opinion, entirely attributable to your being so busy (and I am certain you are busy-but you have been since I've known you).

I spent most of the after-late-breakfast time and after scanning the Sunday paper painting a cabinet I'm making to support the fourth corner of the desk I've made by putting a 4' x4½' edged sheet of plywood atops three two-drawer file cabinets. When it is finoshed it will support the weight of the copying machine and provide storage place for the special papers it uses. That will enable me to get rid of the small table that now holds it which, in turn, will give me space for a set-up tape recorder for dictation and a chair on which to sit on that side. Looking toward more effecient work, and I've had to replace the desk to accomodate this portable, the old machine being beyond use or repair. So, while painting, my mind was only half on the all-news radio to which I was listening.

One of my fears is that all you younger of the "original critics" are depressed about our chances, frustrated at having not been able to accomplish what you'd hoped for, and especially because you are busy, have your attitudes adversely influence by this combination. In various ways I've hinted at your levelling with me on this and what might be related. My purpose here is not to pry into what you may regard as personal but to offer to share and evaluate as a therapist may not be able to. Your reduced correspondence fairly closely coincides with Paul's craziness, which contributes to my concern about you and your attitudes, wh ether or not you refognize them this way or not.

It is fed by your silence on things about which I've asked you and you would not, ordinarily, let slide. Like the good print of Nix, going back to about September, an update on Gary Short, a rundown on Ned, who remains without communication save for the one phone call and its two unkept promises. Coinciding with this is something in itself both strange and quite sophisticated which may be kosher but inspires some caution. These three things are entirely unlike you, so they make me thing and wonder.

I got up after about 2 hrs lseep, maybe less, and felt like going to work. I didn't. I slept again, perhaps another two hours, and they lay abed. I thought I'd write this letter while the coffee was working, but I didn't. I've not done as much thinking as I shall on the thing that seemed like a sudden revelation as I lay there in the dark, half-thinking about what suddenly popped into my mind, and it is on this that I seek a trusted, impartial opinion. With Paul having said he has to do less and with what he has been doing, with your own curtailment, with the insanity and evil of Lifton, the irresponsibility and lack of understanding by Newcomb, with the others all having quit, for various reasons, besides me today, still doing work, ar Howard, Dick and Bud's committee, which is the greatest futility of all. (Jim is great but too immersed in deqdline necessities.) Hoard is very bright, extraordinarily so, and has done fine things. But with his recent request for permission to duplicate what he learned from me about what I'll be saying in TIGER, it suddenly dawned on me that in essence, where he has done good things, he has done little more thanin his own way duplicate what I showed him. He has found things I didn't, but they are duplication of what is already done. Dick is severely limited in what he can do and has done and is doing fine things, but in essence there are repetitions, new angles for saying already-said things. So, what does it all boil down to? I am the only remaining one trying to go forward, and I am bogged down in too many things to advance any one as I'd like to and must. I believe it is trye, and I am very unhappy about it, but I am not at all depressed, nor am I swollen. I am, however, troubled more than ever about the waste of time for I know each day means there is less. I have come to feel that what I do not <u>now</u> do will not <u>now</u> get done. Coming to this belief has beither weighted me down nor made me feel more important. It is like breathing, I now just assume it. But it worries me in a quiet way because I know all of this is too much for me and I fear I may

at any time make the wrong decision aboutnwhat to do next. As of now, when I finish the work on the clothing/pix suit, which is large, I'll be going over the new things as I get them and in some way must find time to return to the writing, in finishing P.M., Agent Os and Tiger order, with, perhaps, an occasional suit coinciding with each. I laid the basis for too many. Chosing one will be no problem.

I am concerned that I may overestimate the degree of my aloneness, and I think that, in turn, may have involvements of which I may not be aware. If you think I do exaggerate, please tell me. Bu as I see it, all those who have been doing this kind of thing, have done it well and can, have more pressing things to which they mist attend, as you and Paul to your work and education. Even in terms of this work, it is essential that you both finish education first.

I've run over the time I have and Lilx will soon be hollering, so I'd best stop. First, when you can, tell me about you, then about me, and then, when you can, in this order, Ned and Gary Short. The Nix is not as immediate for my understanding, although it is desireable that we get done on it what we now can.

If I am right and there is an involvement in whatever your problem, if any, may be with this work, it should not exist. You have done much more than a single share and you will be able to do what you still can much better after you get your degree. The same is true of Paul, though I fear his melonry betokens a not-good change in his attitude.

Best wishes,