

12/28/70

J&J,

When there is good reason for mail to be slow, it isn't. Your 24 came today, the first mail since you sent it. Also one mailed 11/26! While the big deal you make out of the minor gift of POST MORTEM is unwarranted, it does make me feel good, so thanks. I'm trying to get some copies made of what is now PM III ( and will become II when I can get to doing II). If and when I do, without paying for them, for I can't, ~~xxxx~~ I'll have one for you.

Remember, these are rough drafts, written with no less time pressures than news stories, while I was developing their contents (as I think shows). I decided, in the last minute, to remove the hottest thing from PM to use in II, a correct decision, and I made no reference to it in III. I think with what I've gotten since, when I can finish this work, it will be mind-blowing. I've got that much now, in hand, the really significant things withheld from the Commission itself.

Let me date PM for you. I had most of it written in the summer of 1967, made a few additions in early August. It may help to understand this was before Sylvia's or Thompson's books appeared.

Our letters crossed. In case mine got lost, let me know and I'll send another check. But the fit is excellent and Lil likes the things very much. I hope it wasn't too much trouble for you. From your description, you met HIM. I agree, never having met HER, that HER and HIM do not seem to couple. HE was very thoughtful, I believe honest. The advice HE gave me was good, and Lil was pleased, which is the main thing. Three pleasing purchases has to be some kind of record!

I do wish I thought there would be some prospect of my getting out there again soon, even when FRAME-UP is out. I do not know what kind of budget this small, new house has or how they'll spend it. The underground press, except for the Barb, has always boycotted me, so there is no reason to expect demand from the more militant students for me to speak as part of regular university programs. And I'm making no more gratis. Besides the time, I'm out over \$1,000 on my trips to California alone, counting only those cases when I was to have gotten my expenses and small honoraria that usually were not forthcoming. To date the blacks remain turned off. I may have turned a semi-Establishmentarian one on at a Christmas party at the home of a dear correspondent (London Times) friend. He told me he accepted my invitation to come up and afterward asked our host to take him. Lil will not fly (the first lingered for three months, so who can blame her?), but I long to get there again with a less formidable schedule (I don't think I'm up to the kind I used to keep, although I did put in 20 hours three days ago and wasn't sleepy when I went to bed).

Again, thanks for your excessive kindness. Hal has a copy of COUP, by the way, and I think POST MORTEM. Please do not tell anyone you didn't pay for the xeroxing. And have a very good year!

Sincerely,

24 December 1970

Dear Harold:

This is mostly to let you know that the copy of Post-Mortem you mailed on Dec. 7 arrived here two days ago in excellent condition. We are deeply pleased that you have done this and find no words to thank you properly. We are both perishing to read it, but have promised ourselves that we shan't try to until we have an adequate block of time really to absorb it. For one, I am getting very tired of having to try to absorb things in bits and pieces; but that is the way things go these days. Post-Mortem deserves something much better, and we want to do it justice.

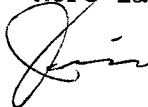
There isn't time at the moment to reply to your good letter of the 9th; that will have to wait a bit too. But ~~id~~ I did want to let you know that your kind gift had arrived and how much we appreciate it.

And a footnote to the order we had the pleasure of filling for you and which went off on the 14th. SHE said several times that while SHE doesn't refund on merchandise, it would be quite all right to bring it back for an exchange if the size or color doesn't suit. So bear that in mind, and shoot it on back if it's not right on the beam.

We met the Chinese gentleman you mentioned -- we're sure it was he. But he wasn't there the day we went back the second time to make the purchase. Naturally, we are consumed with curiosity as to this couple. There is a somewhat startling contrast between his suave polish and gentility and HER blunt firmness. Has to be experienced to be appreciated.

This is all I have time for now. Be sure and send the Chinese garment back if it doesn't suit for any reason; we will be most happy to take care of it. And thank you again for your kind and generous gift. It pleases us in many ways over and above its own substance.

More later,



jdw