

9/12/71

Dear Phil,

Thanks for the catalogue. If I haven't, I should have written earlier. An excess (for us) of working company-usually little work and much company- and problems and writing have kept me pretty busy.

As I once told you, that in the norm for other writers is impossible for me. I am into so much I can't sit down and organize a work, collecting the material in neat files to fit a prepared outline. I just sit down and read it out, and I've finished 75,000 of the third part of a book that in my opinion may be the most important and impressive on this subject. I've read it in too-great haste, and while I was going over the end, my wife had started retying the beginning in the format we use for private publication, in the hope some kind genius will make it possible. If that does not happen, then we can xerox this less expensively, after copyrighting, and the tedious job of retying it double-spaced can begin.

However, there are two earlier parts I'll now have to go over. One was done the summer of '67, the other end Jan-early Feb 69. Both are fresh and new, but the newest material is of such character some of the first will seem dull and the entire thing is much too long anyway, so cutting is essential. In the second part, I fear my sustained indignation was sustained too long, too incessantly. No matter how justified, this can bore some readers, offend others, and be self-defeating. So, I'll still have much work to do. And I must, for I have several other topical and started books the writing of which I had laid aside to do this.

As we learned or seemed to learn more of the "message", I have come to believe it is too sophisticated for MI. and I do have another candidate who intruded himself into my life (by phone only) at a time that perfectly coincides. The full telling of that story will have to await the time we are, as I hope we will be together again. But with the offices of the Senators involved not worrying about this, I have too much that I do have to worry about to spend any great amount of time on it. They were to have consulted the Library of Congress, which they can do by phone and without cost, on several things and simply haven't. Unless and until they cooperate, except for the attractiveness of a puzzle, I do not plan to spend more time on this. Unless someday I do a novel on it. I think it could be a fun one. But when, with all I'm into-and with two other novels planned for sometime.

Frank-UP has been a big disappointment because the publisher has done all he could to kill it, superficial indications being that he was reached. I think it was a combination of incompetence, crookedness, etc. He did no single promotion. Discourage or prevented those I did or could have. And has cheated me out of half of the advance. He is now inventing new and fictitious charges to justify some of it, knowing that if I could sue him it would cost as much as I can get (and I can't pay a lawyer) and that were I to persevere, it could take 3 years to get to trial in NY, such is the current state of "justice". Because we depended on this money and have none, this has meant serious problems for us. I suppose you could say I live in a rural garret, with wild rabbits for rats, bird for roaches, grass and pretty trees and flowers for cracks in the wall and floor and the open sky for cracked ceiling.

Hope you are both well.

Sincerely,