

8/19/68

Dear Jonn,

The figure of speech, aching back, is a reality with me. There are some simple things that are painful; like standing in one place for a while. I had three hours or more of photocopying to do today and tonight and it tired me more than work, and I ache enough not to want to try and concentrate. So, not writing or editing, I'll bring you up to date.

Hal was here until I think Thursday, maybe Friday. He went through some of my stuff. Too bad he couldn't have stayed longer. He was at the Archives for a while. The first day he did not heed my warning to pay for the full day of parking and take the key. So, when they got back to Gary's car, it was there but no key. They had to make their way across town to get the key, then go all the way back. By the time they got here I had the cops looking for them. It was after 2 a.m. and I expected them about 10. I was worried, especially after what had happened to Gary. From what they report, they made no startling discoveries. I did have a chance to introduce Hal to a new guy in our side, which is good, and he visited with Vince in Philadelphia on the way back, also plus. Letter from Gary today says this.

I have put a considerable amount of time and new content in on the new book, COUP D'ETAT. All three thought it very good and worthy of immediate publication. That, at least, makes me feel good. It has a startling story, the way I put it together. It is all new. My estimate is that it is now about 75,000 words. I feel that it would be good if I had the money for a private printing (I'm having Penn get me estimates down there where things are lots cheaper), for although I think I can now expect nothing from the wholesalers, I think ~~xxxx~~ black people will have a considerable amount of interest. I have the real story of the Birmingham bombing in it, among other things, plus federal knowledge. I have a really hot case of suppression in an area where it should be intolerable, with not on the documents but more, the exact words. It is a very hot book.

That is a multiple problem. I wish I could edit while I write, but I cannot. It comes out as I think it, otherwise it could not come out, especially at the clip it does. I averaged 10,000 words a day! However, some of the language will offend the tender. Like I use the word fascist often, have a few polemics, which is the way I feel. I do wish I had an editor! I cannot go over it, for there is too much to do. I have a friend in NYC who thinks some introductions are possible. She has read most of it and has a high opinion. Says of all my books this is the most frightening. She also thinks some of the things I say of the indispensable man are the most. She likes him no more than I. Probably the intellectuals will not like this sort of writing, either.

As usual, I have spent more time on this than I had expected, but I think the content is excellent. I just don't know who ~~am~~ got the guts to do it...I'm seeing someone from Britain this week, through a correspondent friend (British, that is), who was here yesterday, spent the night, read until he fell asleep, then finished this a.m., and says I've moved into a new era, have what may reopen press interest. I hope the man he is to introduce me to has the time and reaches the same conclusion. You'll have to correct this as you read it! What's new out there?

Best to all,