

12/19/73

Dear Bob,

Thanks for the book. It looks good. It'll be the next thing I start that is not part of ongoing work. I haven't followed that closely. I hope you go into Burke Marshall's role because I'm a mite curious about his constant availability to do the wrong thing.

In telling you that I was aware that Jennie had a "special relationship" with the editor ^{IX} in the way of my generation, trying to avoid the appearance of making a moral judgement and at the same time trying to avoid a double standard. I knew she lives with the editor and I do have an opinion: fine, if that is what they want.

I have other concerns, and here I will make no indication of what they are. These, to a degree, I believe were not entirely hidden when I wrote before your vacation. So, I'd like to ask two things of you: first that you say nothing about it and then that you tell me whatever you know about her. If you know anything about him, I'd be interested.

If you want to know why, I'll tell you. It may be nothing but I think that by now you know that I try to avoid what I believe is likely to be a waste of time. This is another way of saying I'm not indulging idle curiosity and I don't care one way or the other about her life style.

Well, perhaps this is not entirely true. I don't care about what others would regard as the moral aspects and I do not. She seems to have a good intelligence, a good education, and she appears to want to do nothing with either. If it were any of my business I'd prefer that she do something constructive, believing she can.

My basic interest is not in getting things in print in the minor press. While the money she says he pays is not good, it is better than I'm getting and there are some things that, as a matter of record, I might write. Based on the experience thus far, I'd be without confidence that I'd be paid. I have no interest in giving away any part of a rather considerable and unsubsidized labor, not in our financial condition.

Because I specified to Jennie what some of these stories are, I regard it as quite unusual that there has been this total silence. There was also something not having to do with a story that came up in our conversation on which I'd have expected to hear from her. Not only because I asked it but more, because she alleged a personal interest. Her total silence is incompatible with her representation. It makes me wonder. Among the possible explanations are innocent ones.

I have never seen the paper, so when you say you are not happy about its editorial policy I can't guess what policy. That is another odd thing. She insisted that I should see some issues and said she'd send them. Hasn't. I know nothing about Oglesby's paper, but his name on that Archives obscenity is enough to discourage my interest in it.

You say you are not a political animal. In my way I am, and in these areas I have had a fair amount of experience. You might want to consider that the problems of accomplishing anything in the areas of our mutual interest are political not factual or evidentiary. On those things where I disagree with others, sometimes all others, the basis of my disagreement is from the political reading I give these things, the political consequences I expect to follow. Where the questions have been resolved, I recall nothing for which I need apologize. This does not mean that I am smarter than anybody else. It does mean I draw upon different and my own experiences. Thus I do not and never have regarded Skolnicoff as merely a "farce" and I am, as I always have been, concerned about the hurt he does us. After that last one I'm also less inclined to dismiss him as merely sick. That he is is not enough, or an explanation and it in no way mitigates the hurt he does.

Thanks. I hope you have a good holiday and that we all are permitted a better year that I think our Glorious Leader has in mind for us!

Sincerely,

CUTLER DESIGNS

38 UNION ST., MANCHESTER, MASS. 01944

R. B. CUTLER, Architect

Tel. 526-1521
Hm 526-1554

M E S S A G E

R E P L Y

TO Harold Weisberg

Rte 8

Frederick MD 21701

DATE XII/15/73

DATE

HW : please understand my not having replied to your letter written right after the conglomeration or whatever it was ... we went to San Francisco for two weeks the middle of the week after and I've just now raised my head a bit above the accumulation of mail and non-mail I guess I'm not a political animal at heart and don't become exorcised over what seemed to me to be completely beside the point activities... there was a measure of disappointment in that there was very little new information given out but I suppose that is the price we pay for going to conventions which I never do anyway .. Sherman of course was riding quite high and perhaps or perhaps not justifiably but what I saw of the beginning of his 'workshop' it must have been a farce ... Now as far as the Real Paper is concerned .. I've sent them two what I can only describe a 'good' pieces.. topical and critical and unflamboyant .. neither have appeared as yet and so naturally I'm not now too happy about thier editorial policy ... however .. Jenny has quite a few of my books which she will bring back now that I'm back and I will pursue this matter of establishing a solid, or would you prefer, a reasonable outlet for items of interest and significance which occur .. Oglesby seems to have the Phoenix under that kind of 'agreement' so it shouldn't be impossible to talk to Paul .. I only know him as Paul because Jenny speaks of him thusly.. she's living with him and so I'll let you know just as soon as possible ... thank you for your remarks and for your letter .. the enclosed should have been sent last summer but I thought you might not have been interested ...

SIGNED

SIGNED

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11/26/73

Dear Bob,

There is an evaluation of each of us in your being the only one who commented in any way on what I had to say over the weekend. I do appreciate your recognition of my effort to introduce a modicum of the rational in an utterly irrational business. In order not to face what was inevitable, I merely left when it was not necessary for me to be in the hall.

I was generally aware that Skolnick was badmouthing me. I had warned Bud long in advance of the potential. Then I learned that his stormtroopers had pulled a heist. I was nearby when the table was turned on the women. Beginning Saturday morning I heard of the htreats of violence. Then I heard of what could happen if they were not cut in. So, when I got the first report of what was transpiring, I felt that while I could have put him down and exposed him fairly thoroughly, I also felt that the slightest move in that direction would have triggered real violence, so I stayed out in the hall, talking to Jennie and others. I still don't know what he said except that I am some kind of CIAagent. That bothers me little, but this kind of Nazism added to his very bad record of doing nothing but hurting us and closing off avenues of legitimate inquiry and never once doing anything good do give me pause. I have quite a file on him, quite aside from what he stole from me and misused. Whether he is no more than dangerously sick, I wonder if the time has not come to expose him. I can and I am willing.

Which leads me back to Jennie.

She seemed genuine enough, concerned and sincere, so as I do with all those who to me are young, I spent some time with her. Including at supper Saturday night, after which I returned home. I was concerned for her, a woman in a strange town, when she appeared to have neither a place to stay nor luggage of any kind. I offered her a pad with us but I made it clear I could not drive her back to Washington in the morning. While her story of her accomodations wasx not entirely coherent and consistent, I accepted it. I delivered her to a place to which she did have a key, waited until she signalled me and then went home.

She indicated she has a special relationship with the editor of The Real People, that she thought he could be interested in a few stories, that he could pay enough to justify the time, and that she would come here today after calling him yesterday. I have heard nothing from her.

As she knew, I'll be away tomorrow. And now that this interruption is over, there is work to which I must return, intensively.

If you know this editor and if you think he could be interested in some solid stories, I would like to hear from him. I don't know his name or the address of the paper. Jennie can give him an idea of what is possible. Each of the stories I discussed with her can be illuminated with documents I have, all unpuboished.

It is unfortunate that when there are means for accomplishing some good they are never used for good and generally wind up as still another assault on the responsibility and integrity of the few who seek to do meaningful work. From my knowledge of those who were on the program I know that nothing new, indeed nothing of value, happened. I stayed away not to feel impelled to say anything. The tragedy is that so many people of the best intent, so many who on all other subjects are so decent, on this are raving maniacs who are completely without the capacity of learning from endless and repeated mistakes. If this past weekend does not set us back further it will be a miracle. Too bad.

Sincerely,