

9/10/69

Dear Mary,

I welcome - I cherish - the kind things you say in your letter of the 8th. However, eliciting compliments was not my purpose.

You came to what I had in mind in your PS : "...it appeared that the buffs were spending more time fighting each other than trying to solve anything". But this is an incomplete formulation. I have been aware of some of what has been said about me and have ignored it, making no public comment on it while publicly defending and crediting those responsible, for in each case I was able to, without compromise, and did, for the unity and welfare of all. I do not believe I have ever publicly criticized any of us save on one occasion, when Mark actually/ used, to my face, on a three-hour TV show I gave him, where I live, some of the extensive thievery he has practised against me beginning with his first book, which appeared a year after the first edition of mine. Under these circumstances, I felt I had little choice. I am confident it is the only exception.

It is neither the fighting nor the hurt that troubles me, for these are transitory and ego only is hurt. It is the consequences. They have been measurable and serious. People have been turned off, some entirely, some from just me, perhaps others of whom I do not know from others.

This has come to the point where it is no longer possible to explain it away with ease, where simplistic explanations do not suffice. There now is the visible question, is this no more, does it serve no other purpose, is it independent or is it under sponsorship, under direction. If the effect is the same, whether it is personal or in some way official, the need to know if it is not only personal is now great, particularly with the reduced number of us and because of the adverse effect on all of us of the New Orleans performance and what has followed (and will continue to).

Without bothering you with the entire story, which would be to abuse you and speak of others behind their backs, I asked you only a general question. Without giving you detail, for the above reasons, I now tell you that you have, within the recent past, been with those responsible. It may, ultimately, be one person and the exerted influence of that person, with others dominated and motivated by this one person. Therefore, it seemed possible you would have known whether this campaign continues and, perhaps, might, having been subjected to it, might have had a clue we could have found of value.

The person most involved belabor Gary in this manner for a long while. Gary did not rise to the bait. I kept telling Gary to ignore it, that the best possible result would be the waste of time better spent in other pursuits. However, this person got overconfident, overplayed his hand, and dared Gary to confront me with the charges. Gary did. I was able, in every case, to provide him with satisfactory answers to every accusation, in all but a single case over the signatures of the people involved by this ringleader, frequently, it would seem, not without warrant. Gary thereupon responded with his own proofs and challenges, the result being that at least to Gary this person has been silent and with others, it seems, more circumspect.

But the result has been to isolate some of these still working, to subject them to the dubious influence of this person and his own wild beliefs and concepts, to subject their work largely to his doctrine. There is no longer any self-criticism and most of those involved are incapable of it anyway. It is not alone that I am cut off from their knowledge, for it has been of little or no