

1/17/72

Dear Mary,

The last of our steady procession of company that began at Amas left this a.m., tomorrow I go to Washington to have the stitches taken out of my thumb (which is getting along fine, thank you) and to bring Gary back for several days, then I go to NYC the end of the week, so writing and editing right now are out of the question, I expect to be interrupted momentarily by a phone call, and before long I have to go to get Lil. Thus I find the time to tell you what I think you should not let on you know unless Arch does, that Bud seems to have written him to ask him to arrange for the printing of *ROSE MORTIMER* and got back a letter in which Arch says instead of answering that as soon as he finished the chronology on which he is working he is finished with the case.

As you know, I didn't expect anything, for you had made the situation clear long before Arch did. But with what I have been going through recently, I find myself wondering what in the hell the rich ones are spending any time doing any kind of work or pretending any kind of genuine interest for when they can make possible what they refuse to make possible, and they alone can.

And I find myself wondering more and more about the lordly ones who sit and prosper and do nothing but give bad advice and continue to assert a proprietary interest in work they have abandoned, preferring, as without doubt is their right, the security and pleasures or regular and fine incomes. This, you understand, I intend to go no further. I give you an example I may have in the past: Wecht wouldn't be a witness for me in one of my suits simply because he could make money in that time and he already had so many prospects for making money that he could not accept he had to give them up. Were you in my position, could you be without doubt about his motives, what really underlies his present effort? I think entirely too many who have never made any major contribution to what we know, have never done any real investigating and research, so long to be famous for alone and unassisted breaking the whole thing wide open that nothing else matters to them and they are unconcerned about normal ethics and morality.

As you know, although I never anticipated Lattimer, this whole thing is something I expected—even forecast—in September, without any real response from anyone, except for some backbiting some of which came back to me. This could have been the most serious mistake the other side has made and the only thing that prevented it is the selfishness and personal ambition of those who could have made one of a variety of things possible and whose sole reasons for not doing anything are not having taken the time to think, not overcoming selfishness, and not ignoring personal lust. The most obvious thing of all would have cost little, a press conference at which I could have laid Lattimer wide open. But I'd not have used—or needed—any of my new material. His own record and what is public is enough. But since those with the means understood well that this might, as they saw it, have attracted a bit of attention to me and my work, they just didn't think of it. You see, I knew this was coming and I had enough in my files. But no single critic with a buck in pocket or pocketbook called up to say this is what I have, what do you have, or what, if anything, should we do—and most of all do I want you to know none of those to whom I had in writing forecast the two most likely possibilities. I think it likely that Cyril will persist in his effort, that reaction to Lattimer may force what might otherwise not have happened, that he sees the stuff, and then we face the possibility of another disaster. I have done a number of things that have the possibility of forestalling this. I haven't been able to make enough copies and I haven't known whether you were home, so I haven't sent them. But I have sent Marshall and Graham a series of point but polite questions, with copies to someone who can reach Teddy, that I think will shake them up a bit even if they did what they did consciously. While I don't think it will make either of them shake, I have also told them that I will publish the questions and their refusals to answer if they do not respond.

So what it has come to is that except for one or two sick one, like Lifton, and a few who waste most of their time and money, there are just a few of us doing real work and we are the ones who can least afford it. You all have more than a full share of costly problems, Howard and Paul are in school, the others have dropped out and at best represent little better than the dead heavy hand of the cold past, and who else are we or who else is really doing anything.

I could, as a matter of fact, take it as quite a testimonial that so soon after I copyrighted PM this happened, and contrary to Marshall's statement that he would under no circumstances consider it. There has never been a time of less interest, a time of less pressure, and in this case there could have been none at all. Why, then, did they pull this raw one seemingly so unnecessary? If there is an honest answer, it simply has to be insane.

Well, I didn't intend to ramble like this. It was Arch's answer to Bud, which Bud just told me by phone, that I wanted you to know.

At some point I will have worked my way to where I can find time to write a commercial book, one that will sell. It will be the inside story of the "liberal" critical community. The fact is that once when I feared a bad happening I wrote part of it, as it relates to one.

If your local papers carried a picture of Lattimer on CBS, please see if you can get a copy. not from the paper as printed but the picture itself. You will also be interested in what you probably have and if you haven't I can supply, the similarity between what he "learned" from the film and his own gross misrepresentation of the WR in Medical World News 3/13/70, two years before he saw this stuff.

When you and Buck are here this spring, you can go through the new and separate file I have made on this fiasco and have whatever you want. It begins with the Graham article, not my earlier apprehensions, but that we can find with no sweat.

Hope you had a great time, that you found everyone well and returned that way, and that a good year lies ahead.

Best regards,