

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 ⁱⁿ 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. I wasn'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 Skolnick 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,