

Dear Gerry,

1/28/94

The other side is coincidence as I reuse what can be reused.

When I opened your 1/25 and saw the brochure I was certain the studious look was on Nicholas' face! Great picture. In his working clothes, I observed.

I'd ordered some books from Hamilton. It included Howard Fast's hardback, Being Red. I presume autobiographical and his trip to jail. \$3.95 only. I think he is one of our greatest and most principled writers.

It also is only a coincidence that what is already in the envelope for you related to the so-called Nation of Islam flap. A word about that.

There is nothing new about it. It was reported when that nazi spoke. Only everyone, especially all black leaders, ignored it. Until the ADL took out that full-page ad in the NY Times. A local conservative friend sent me the copy in your envelope. Dave gets the ^{daily} weekly Times.

No questions are asked about why the black establishment establishment was so silent until it was so publicly embarrassed.

It is tragic that the too-many black Livingstones do not realize how self-defeating they are or that they attract their people to what is also self-defeating as well as untrue. They misdirect attention and that serves only the interest of those deserving attention. I doubt this was ever as hurtful to real black interests as it is now.

Dal McGuirk's address is 95 Pah Road, Epsom, Auckland 1003 New Zealand. Or send it to me and I'll send it to him when I write him again.

Apropos of your schools being closed for three days, ours were for an entire week and then intermittently, like today. We are lucky not to have lost current, which would also cost us heat. But the roads and streets are solid ice. Just beginning to thaw. With a new storm forecast to be here tomorrow night. I've been able to walk as I recall only twice since Xmas or a day or so earlier.

At the beginning of this winter I was reminded of one in particular when we farmed. I also delivered in Washington, on Wednesdays. I learned, as farmers have always had to learn, the signs. We lived between two railroad lines. about 8-10 miles from each. Never heard the trains, even in winter, except when precip was pending. If from the north it was usually snow, from the south rain, and in severe winters it tended to repeat itself in more or less five-day cycles. I've been telling all I know this but one one has yet said, you told us so. Awful that it is true!

Glad you and Bill Neichter have been in touch. He appreciates it.

Our best to you all,

Harold

January 25, 1994

Dear Harold,

We were happy to receive word that Lillian came through her eye surgery in fine shape, and that you made it through some awfully difficult weather with some help from some nice neighbors. We had an ice storm last Monday 1/17, and because it was followed by such cold air the ice stuck around for a while. The schools were closed for three days! Hope the weather improves so you can get out and do some walking.

I have not heard anything from In These Times yet about the letter I sent just before the New Year. But I am still hopeful, even though in this last issue the editor had a very praiseworthy review of Reeves' new book on JFK. It appears he swallowed it whole, without questioning any of Reeves' "facts". I don't believe my one-page syllabus could add anything to Jerry or Dave's which I am sure are much more detailed. But if there is any other help I could give Dal McGuirk I would be happy to do what I can. I did find the stamps interesting, because I used to collect stamps and coins as a kid. Claire and Nick have not (yet) developed an interest in stamps.

This is the final week of our one-month Interim period and the students in my project are giving reports on the assassination of Malcolm X. I was disappointed with the presentations today in which one group ignored many facts to strongly suggest government involvement in his assassination. For example, they just completely glossed over the violent history of the Nation of Islam in punishing others who left and challenged the legitimacy of Elijah Muhammad. I had hoped to make them more careful, critical readers, but it appears many have fallen for some of the cheapest exploitation (a la Stone's "JFK"). Over the past couple months I have read and analyzed everything I could get my hands on regarding Malcolm X and his assassination. Michael Friedly's book published by Carroll & Graf holds up well. Richard Gallen can be proud of that one. There is another recent book by Karl Evanzz, The Judas Factor, which bears a striking resemblance to the countless JFK conspiracy books. For example, in addition to factual errors throughout, incredible sources (such as Jimmy Hoffa as a source on a black FBI agent in the upper echelon of the Nation of Islam), the book barely has a page, if that, on the actual assassination and the two-month trial of the three suspected assassins (two of whom I am convinced were framed)! And what it does have on the actual shooting is wrong and grossly incomplete. Sound familiar? Evanzz also throws in choice bits of JFK conspiracy lore from the likes of Mark Lane, Livingstone & Groden's "High Trash", etc. I hope that at least some of the students will be able to see through this. If I get the time I may try to write a review of it. One of my ulterior motives in offering this project was to get black students to see through some of this conspiracy thinking which I believe is rife in the black community today. The absolute worst example of it is Farrakhan, and his spokespersons' gross anti-Semitism. I believe blacks need to face facts: that the Nation of Islam (with Farrakhan cheering) killed a potentially great black leader in Malcolm X.

Finally, enclosed you will find a brochure for South Carolina Public Libraries with the picture of someone you might recognize. I believe they took the candid photo on one of our excursions to the library this past summer. I am sure Jerry McKnight would get a kick out of seeing Nicholas reading about dinosaurs.

Hope the weather improves soon. I will be in touch.

Best,