

7/5/72

Dear Pearl,

Somehow it seems I never have anything pleasant to write you. Or for that matter, anyone else. So I'll begin with what you may find pleasant, if you have a hidden vengeful streak where nature endowed women so better to hide things. It is a report from a friend who doesn't know about you, to the best of my knowledge, but is remarkably well informed about publishing. He says that Turner and Minkle have had to get Eliot Masinof to do the book. Or do it over. Hell, even if it were not your stuff, you'd look better on a cover!

Furst has no separate listing in LBJ. I phoned a NY editor friend who checked while we spoke. He seems to recall one of that name formerly with the Univ Chicago press. This does not have to be negative. A good agent can be with a firm and still work in his own name. It sounds familiar but I can't place.

Your approach to the "Peace" prize sounds ~~more~~ than like the kind of thing I think you could do best. Suggestion, pick out a character, anything as low as the devil and rising, and consider a dialogue instead of an interview. I think it gives those talents I think I see in your greater opportunity than an interview, in which the interviewer would have to be too straight. I think that besides being very, very funny when you unwind, you can probably be subtly bitter, sarcastic, etc. The choices are limitless. ~~Adrian~~ Sade. Pulver-Lytton. (Lunchausen with Nixon prompted by LBJ would probably be going too far.) The original John Birch would be good with Jesus, Judas (JOH, PEARL, could you swing on this one?) Benedict Arnold. Tevye. Hitler. Tanaka. Mussolini. Clausewitz. Capser. Wilquetoast. These are all about Vietnam, I take it the point being, not the Prince Of. (You'll have too much competition from the scholars.) JFK. RFK. Teddy, even, afraid. Hannibal. Who was the Mexican played by Paul Huni, begins with an A Borgia? The last Pope John? Sacher-Masoch. Pierre duFont or Sir Basil Saharoff, if they are well enough known in Mexico (munitions merchants if you are too young). (Bei mir bist du.) Your (anybody's) son in a dream. Cortez. You as a mother of two children.

But don't use Christ in the current corruption of the unthinking, alienated, radical right, copout kids. The traditional, esp. in Mexico.

If my pursuits sound exciting, there is no reason to believe they will yield what is the current measure of desired yield. In two areas, if you can find time, you can help. In anything other than LBJ from NY appears there on what I call The Watergate Caper (Mexico is involved, and I'm particularly interested in the source of the see down there) and the more recent adventure of the people supposedly smuggling munitions into Mexico for use against Castro. Please remember, if you have time, I don't read Spanish. Both can lead to something.

Our letters crossed. I have heard from Jerry, a childishly polite, pretendedly patient and tolerant attempt at self-justification that is arrogant beyond description, stupid and ethically and morally corrupt. I have given him a less severe response than I'd have liked, but he'll find it harsh and he has not responded. His partner in what he calls "good conscience", which means mixed literary theft and mixing in where he doesn't have the remotest idea what he is going but makes him feel like a bigshot, has also written with as much dishonesty and a not entirely consistent and in some ways inconsistent account. I will have nothing further to do with either or their associates, of whom, as of now, I know of three. So I'll not be sending you best and think neither you nor he deserve it. You should just detach, if I may be avuncular. Aren't Minkle and Turner already too much?

Hastily,

June 28, 1972

Dear Harold,

Sorry about the long delay, but family affairs to attend to along with typewriter pounding. Nevertheless, got out an improved ms. - along with your suggestions (to a point!) - and waiting. So far (It's been about a month with RD and a little less with a NY agent a friend recommended, Franz Furst, know him? ) - no word.

Guess we continue to be in the same boat. All work and no money! But I always have faith that nothing can be negative forever - something has to give. And I really wish it would be a society that has made its goal the pursuit of money and the accumulation thereof of all kind of unnecessary goodies.

Would appreciate your opinion - how would you approach writing about Peace? There's a local contest going for the press with a nice prize of 50,000 pesos (4,000 dollars) and of course the "honor" attached like a local Pulitzer). I thought of having an imaginary interview with the Prince of Peace himself (I've done this sort of thing with Jefferson and others, explaining what is happening, and having them answer, according to their philosophy, what they think about the present)

Since Christ is so popular at the moment, might make a different approach - and several strong points could be gotten across. Luckily only 5-10 pages are needed.

Your pursuits sound exciting enough for James Bond - Where does it all lead to?

Hear from Jerry? Send my best. Been quite a while.

Best to you and Lil,

*Paul*