

10/7/68

Dear Matt,

My I was a young man, two friends bought a 38-foot cabin cruiser. She came with the name Virginia; they changed it to the C. Phyllis. We had some rare times on the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, and I know, or at least remember from many years back, what it is to man the pumps in a bad storm; the exultation of it, and the peace it can bring.

Your letter dated 9/29 arrived today. The postmark is not legible. Maybe you delayed mailing it? I'm very glad to have that picture and to show it to Lil, who has seen none of you. Great. Unkind to Jeanine, tho.

I do not think you understand by feeling about Ben. I am aware of and respect the things he has done. They are important. We are all in his debt for having done them. But the same was true in Italy and Germany, and look what happened when those who could do stopped doing what must be done. That is happening here, and there is no basis for expecting different results.

No rush on any of the pictures. I can make do with what I have on Z.

Agreed on King. I expect to begin writing the additions tomorrow and to have them done before I leave. I now think I have a reservation on a different plane and different line. I should get to New Orleans at 2:35 p.m., a better time. I may want to stay with you, at least part of the time. Thanks.

I disagree with Vince on what can be accomplished NOW and believe every effort must be made to accomplish it right now. The trenches are the last place to fight, not the first. Fascism does not wait if anti-fascists are silent, quiet, inactive. Rather than outstripping this issue, current events give it more significance, as I see it. While it is not the only issue, it will come to be understood as the operative one, that from which all others stem. Had I been able to get a lawyer, for example, to file certain suits two years ago, by now certain things, today unknown, might be well understood. Everything could have been different. Would it have been? Now who can tell? There was no such lawyer, still seems not to be. Vince is dispirited, and this attitude dominates and directs his thinking and his expression of it.

There will be one thing different on this trip. I will be the luncheon guest of the publisher of your local newspaper! Nice invitation came today. Didn't I send you our correspondence? Not the kind of letters that usually end in any kind of social relationship.

Again, my thanks, and best to you all.

Sincerely,

