

12/18/71 Dear Sylvia, Thanks for the check and the note.

To date Salisbury has not responded. My purpose in writing was not to get a response, formal or otherwise, as much to make a record and flaunt a challenge, which makes an additional kind of record. Knowing the bureaucracy of papers, I know it is possible, whether or not the fact, that he had nothing to do with the appearance of the Belin tinnif. Your correspondence may not have have reached him personally, although the odds are that it did. My relationship with him has been a bit different. I have never gotten a canned answer and he did read my first two books in mss, losing the second (or is that where Hoover got the copy to which he responded before it appeared--before even the printer had a copy, one might wonder).

The trip was as you describe. Not until afterward did I come to realize how exhausting. I'm also getting older and feeling the age and the accumulation of long physical abuse. And the erosion of endless problems. I've been trying to get a bit more rest, but I can't always. I was working before 5 this a.m. and I have finished the draft of the new final chapter of the panel section of POST MORTEM.

From what is visible and comprehensible outside the UN, I can get a rough idea of how much more difficult it must be inside. I do hope you can get some rest and respite...On the asthma, while I know nothing about it, I do recall rather dramatic relief Matt Herron used to get from something he put in his mouth and then squeezed. I've also seen it advertised.

Mary was not well when I left. I've heard nothing from them since. I think most of it was worry about her daughter-in-law and an expected and apparently overdue Caesarian that, in the end, turned out not to have been necessary. They were both as magnificent as everyone who had ever visited them said.

I expect Howard some of these days. They Gary. Also a fellow writer who probably knows more about the Kaplan/Vidal(less) case than anyone else, and even David Chandler, with whom I have always had a friendly relationship. So, with more work than ever, our lives will be relieved a bit by company...Among the others with whom I do have a friendly relationship is one of Shaw's lawyers, Sal Panzeca. We have already exchanged some information. He seems to think of Russo pretty much as I do. I hope he carries this belief forward.

If I hear anything of interest from the NYT, I'll let you know. Take as much care as you can, and let us all have a better year.