

4/10/68

Dear Sylvia,

The unending variety of the UN stamps will please my niece, I am certain. If you are trying not to duplicate them I believe you are succeeding.

Please do not apologize for being busy. That's what you get paid for. Also, do not worry about what I did after you told me about Salandria's piece that may be against my interest. I'll explain it, for it is complicated, when we meet again. It was something I believe integrity demanded of me and the consequence may be against my ultimate interest. You are in no way responsible. I knew what I was doing, knew its potential, believed I should do what I did and I hope, in similar circumstances in the future, would make the same decision. Somehow, I expect to have to be in New York again soon, possibly my optimism shining through, and I'll explain it all then.

As you say, being possessed of confidential information imposes handicaps. Anxious as I am to know what it is, you must maintain the confidence reposed in you. But in adding the twos, while I am happy with the assurance that Lane's will not be the first, I'm unhappy with the inherent assurance the same seems to apply to me. So for me it still does not come out four.

My information about Lane's book and the opinion it formed is based upon what I have been told by editors and what I have read of his writings. It was formed before you said anything. It was, in fact, pretty much formed in late 1964.

The Archives's price, I am confident, is the normal working of bureaucracy. With Xerox, why mimeograph or ditto? There is a fixed GSA price for Xeroxing. So, the catalogue was not mimeographed and the price is 20 cents per page for Xeroxing. It can, of course, be examined free.

My original information on Bodley-Head (Penguin in paper) came from the person who claimed to have made Lane's contact for him. My information it was now Allen and Unwyn came from an executive of a book-publishing house who said galleys had been offered him and he had agreed to read them. This was the day after I saw you. It is one a Spring List, but I didn't ask which of the British correspondent who told me. He estimated this meant June publication, in England only.

I accept your compromise opinion of Frazier as an expression of mine. But it doesn't say much.

No answer from Ramparts. They have even taken me off their solicitation list. The ad of which I told you was received by a friend. From what you say of Cook's work, I'm glad they may be late. His approach will not be helpful.

No quarrel with your opinion of my Postscript. You are right. I did not say what you think I should and what I normally would have on purpose. The understatement is deliberate, both with respect to the Commission and the FBI. If it turns out to be the wrong approach, the mistake is one whose possibility I acknowledge in advance.

You are also undoubtedly right about shortening the Postscript. I shall reread it at the time it will be used, when I shall also retype it triplé-spaced. Meanwhile, I'll also be thinking about what it says- and doesn't.

I have no news, from here or abroad, that means anything. The British publisher has finally written me to say it looks interesting, is having two university dons read it and thereafter they will have a board of directors meeting on it. While I was in New York I was able to accomplish some other good that I'll tell you about in person also, because it also is too long. Remind me to tell you the last thing I did the day after I saw you.

Do you see Paris Match? I understand they have never dropped their doubts and print something pretty often, although I have heard of nothing substantial. This may be because my informant knows nothing of the subject. He is a writer with historical interests, especially of the Civil War era.

Unless something happens to change my present opinion, I also will not visit the Archives again soon, although I am anxious to see some of the data, especially the pictures. Perhaps by the time you go I'll have the photographic equipment I want and we can do it together and photograph what we desire. Developing the photographs is a lead balloon. I tried one.

When I have news, I'll tell you. When you can tell me more, I'm only too anxious to hear it.

Sincerely,