

Dear Phil,

2/25/85

With a break in the weather- 85 in Baltimore yesterday - I'm getting a little more outdoor exercise and when I rest I find that I can not only type but that it helps. So, thanks for your 2/15/ mailed 21, and a suggestion, based on long experience: absent some real reason, do not fail to get a flu shot annually. I've been doing it for about 40 years, never had any reaction, and never got the flu except a couple of years when I forgot the shot. My doctor now wants me to have one annually, and I go to his office for it every November or as soon as the PHS says the flu season is near and the vaccine is available. Phil has the same experience.

With regard to LaMarre's Z copy, I am satisfied that he lied to me when he told me he got it from the JFK family. While I do not know where, I did see 4x5 film positives made from it and they are of the best quality. I have since then assumed that he source was one of those pirated from LIFE, and that did happen and I have one, early on, with the CIA and bootleg copies from Dallas alternatives.

By accident I was in a position to blow his operation when he pulled into N.O. with Steve Jaffe in tow and had it all set up for Garrison to endorse the movie version of Farewell America, Garrison's title that replaced L'Amérique Brule. I happened to be staying with Matt Herron, a superb photographer and great guy, when, early in the morning, Jaffe phoned looking for a projector. I immediately offered to make the arrangements, picked both up at the Pontchartrain Hotel where they had elaborate accommodations, and then chauffeured them around, managing to get lost as often as I thought I could get away with to waste their time, having already tipped Louis Ivon off, and did they get a reception when they finally got to the office at about noon! They fled! Literally! Without seeing Garrison.

I was driving a confiscated gangster car that nobody in the office dared risk his life in, a souped-up car with unpredictable brakes and carburetor, and for whatever it is worth, at his request, drove Lamarre to "Viguerie's Coal Scuttle," in the quarter. While he was there I worked on the imbecile Jaffe and after they fled I went back to Herron's, picked up my reflex, and photographed the Coal Scuttle. A woman who'd been married to a wild Viguerie ran it, and it had all the earmarks of an amateur cover. Imagine anyone making living by selling bagged coal and wood, for only four hours a day, lunch included in that brief period! The hours alone make it amateurish more than the kind of business, which could not begin to cover even modest expenses.

Anyway, there can be no doubt that Lamarre's copy is as good as any of the Z film from the transparencies I saw. I did not see his motion picture version that was 16mm and I'm sure was not the original with him. He'd never risk carrying that around. But the transparencies were fine. They may, in fact, have been made by LIFE when it made its own, that good.

As of today no word from the appeals court, which I take as a good indication. No word from Jim, who has been out of the country, and none from the ACLU lawyer. I have not heard from him since he filed the brief. Not even when he saw the panel's decision. The probability is that the appeals court now will send nothing to Jim directly anyway. It should to me and perhaps to Jim's Nader (pun) lawyer, who did not petition for Jim.. But as you may have noticed, I included Jim in what I filed.

Best,



Feb 15, 1985

Dear Harold -

Much thanks for your 2/14/85 and all the historical/FOIA enclosures. I'm ill with the flu and have enjoyed reading the depressing but so vivid alternative history that you are writing via your letters and briefs (FOIA).

What's that about SDECE having a clean copy of the 2 films? Some day, a book could be written on how critics - especially you - were abused legally, politically, administratively - and how they were targeted.

Best regards, hastily

Phil