

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701

8/31/68

Dear Harvey

And Judy and Mike.

It is getting so I have to have an excuse to write silent friends. The convention loused up the work week and my attitudes. I've been working, but nights I've been watching that fiasco and then not being able to sleep. Two days, instead of going back to writing work when I stopped, I went outside and began to nibble on the tremendous accumulation. I've got a 500-foot head of floribunda roses grown so together they defy even rabbits to get rid of. They have made the lane almost impossible and the mailman will not come in any more. Can't blame him. So, I'm befuddled and scratched.

Tonight I just do not feel like working. I've just written an edition on part of a book and should read and correct it. I think you understand that while we can drive ourselves and discipline requires it, there are some tasks that are not as well performed if the mood is not best.

In all, not counting incomplete manuscripts, of which I have at least two that are more than half written, I now have three unpublished books. The most recent is on all three assassinations. I call it COUP D'ETAT. The few who have read it, including three working in the field, rather like it. Hal, who was due to return to SF today, is one. He was here for most of a week. Wish he could have stayed longer. If non-fiction can have a substory, this one is on the plans of the most extreme of the radical right and what they have been doing. I think that part alone is vitally important and I have no idea if or when it will be published.

Jim Esagon called me about a month ago and made a date to call me back to broadcast. I stayed home for two hours after the appointed time, piled stuff at hand so I'd be able to quote directly, and I've not heard from him since.

I'm hopeful of being out there before too long. So far I've got only one specific arrangement, a speech in San Diego. Now that school will soon resume there may be more invitations. That's when it will be, when I've got enough to make it possible. I'll let you know when. Like to see you all again.

My recent work has been rather fruitful, if anything on this subject can be, in the face of media attitudes. It is some of the most stunning material. My past three trips to New Orleans, aside from the fact I developed, will yield not less than two novels, at least one of which should make a movie. I wish a) I were a novelist and b) I had time for that kind of writing. This is the way, I suspect, to reach and influence people.

Rye phoned me the end of June. He said he was going out there. He also said that he was put up to that business by Ron, that Ron had told him the story and to get in touch with John. He spoke to you when he could not find John. The immediate question is why Ron had someone who didn't know him look John up? That continues to be a strange one. I have it in COUP D'ETAT. Not in great detail, but the essence of the story, as it happened.

Hope you are all well and happy and enjoying hours that should make for a more normal