

12/21/72

Dear Jim,

Jerry WATS/bugs you with trivia, as he did me. So, it may be that he'll make a deal of his magnum opus on the Times, due to appear or appearing in The Realist. Today I got a typical note from him, dated the 15th, beginning, "You won't believe this but..."

I have no doubt he wrote and sent it on the 15th, and that the usual delays account for the lag. And what Jerry will not permit himself to understand is that there is a difference between the concoctions essential to his concept of self and reality.

I really don't care, although he undoubtedly expects an eruption. After all, one man, like a volcano, can erupt only so often. I try to save my lava for that which is worth it, and the purely personal rarely is.

It seems as though a footnote relating to what Kaplan said of me was omitted. And that Krasner assures Jerry it was a printer's error. I don't care if Jerry removed it and I've no reason to believe he did. I can imagine K thinking it is great fun, something like having Johnson couple with the corpse of JFK.

Jerry did his own thing in that piece, entirely unaware of the changes as he got into it, each getting it farther from the original concept and each making him AN IMPORTANT MAN in his own eyes. It gives him, at least within himself, the claim to fame he yearns for and can't get any other way. He enjoys no monopoly.

The piece was seriously flawed as it relates, among other things, to me. I predict with no knowledge it will be more seriously flawed by ending where it did a year or more ago. In part this was his special kind of organization, more it was the compulsion of his subconscious. I spent much time trying to get him to put his head together. Some of the garbage he sent me he sent Howard. I am confident Howard gave him what he was asking for, which Jerry found uncongenial.

In any event, I want nothing to do with Jerry that I can avoid. Only since this got nasty has Lil revealed to me that she found him obnoxious and intolerable and accepted him here because she thought it meant something to me. Jerry didn't wait for invitations, which included up to seven people, a minor factor except with people in our circumstances. He was so sloppy he makes you look like the pride of an army inspection, and she resented that, too. It meant having to walk over his luggage wherever she went in her own home, for example. It did not being this way. He earned the change.

So, this is in case you want to know, for he will hear nothing from me, and in case he keeps after you about it. He is capable of daily calls or of ignoring it, especially if it is less an accident than he represents. I don't really care, won't even tell Lil about it, have no high regard for K or his sheet, which I don't see. But I give him no absolution. It is part of his (subconscious or unconscious) handling of me, where it all began, which diminishes the amount of responsibility he can place on Krasner and accident. I don't care about the promised correction, which may well emerge as worse. It will if it is restricted to out-of-context use of the text of the dropped footnote and it will be hard for K not to indulge what he probably thinks is a sense of humor.

Anyway, if Jerry raises this with you, you can tell him that you have heard from me that I don't care. Despite what he told you, I have heard from him several times and have not acknowledged. Earlie, when I think he might try to put his head together, I did keep after him. Satisfied now that there is no such possibility, I ignore him.

Sincerely,