

9/28/70

Dear Paul,

After hearing from you about Howie Cohen some time ago, I wrote Jack Frazier, whose response I sent you.

After hearing from Jack, I wrote a poet friend who has been out of N.O. for about seven years. He can add nothing, having only the slightest recollection of Frazier and, apparently, none of Cohen.

All my friend can recall is his slight resentment that, whereas management passed the hat for folk-singer entertainers, some artists, etc., when there were poetry readings, there was never a collection for the poets.

Whether or not it is of interest, I recall that Cohen has some kind of police record. If it is serious, I do not recall it. I have a notion it may be related to some kind of sex offense. I have the mug shot.

Unless I hear further from you, I will not pursue this. Most of my N.O. contacts have fallen silent. With what is going on there now, I suspect none who might know anything would say anything. I'd not be surprised if that town explodes like none in the country have. There has been no major racial turmoil there. I was there when it was expected but did not materialize. However, police repression is now so great and abuse so intolerable, the entire black community seems to me to be radicalizing fast. In one case, where everything seems to have been precipitated by the police, bail of \$1,300,000 has been set! When the NAACP (State) comes out against the cops, mayor and D.A., that is, in Louisiana, of some significance.

With acres of well-to-wall slums and added disillusionment over Garrison, who was so strongly supported by the blacks, what so many other cities had and N.O. avoided I think it right now get, with interest.

Sincerely,