

6/5/70-2

Dear Gary,

Having had a refreshing nap, lunch and my mind taken from other things by a half-hour of a soap opera done with a professionalism so great I find the acting a reward when the content is slop, and having during the commercials read and annotated the Washington Post clipping enclosed, I've decided to take a bit more time from work--and I have a story sold to get edited and retyped-- because of your liking for your prof and my worry for him, impersonal as it is to me, knowing it is not to you.

He probably has no recollection of the Hitler era, just that it was rough and anti-human. But the fact is this story, this incident, is the most remarkable parallel, as is so much today. There is but an Americanization of the identical thing. Muted voices rather than shouts, subillants for gutterals. This holy horseshit, this fabricated dedication to the good and principled, all the sanctimony and the slight suggestion of the possibility of excess -- it is, really, remarkably like the German original its duplicates. These are the most evil men, whose records are never recalled by the sycophant press. Nixon began his political life as a frame-up artist and he never abandoned that. It remained his stock in trade. He began his Senate career as a crook, caught taking some \$17,000 in clear illegality, and with the most depraved speech any one in public life in this country even made, that business of hiding behind Checkers' long hair, parlayed it into the vice-presidency. No decent man would have so degraded himself. He also told these kids he listens to protest. By looking at the football game.

The thing that most disturbs me is that M will some day realize that he has been a consummate fool and a hick sucker for a verbal shell game--and gave it all the stamp of his own integrity--and above all, to his own beloved child. He will not escape that, not ever, and remain a man with any integrity. He has, by this one intellectual stupidity (you know I am not a diplomat), by this one abandonment of what his mind should have told him is the reality, been more than a traitor to his and any decent society. He has betrayed any right he was for his daughter to trust him and any right to expect it.

I fear also he has limited the paths he can take in the future, the near future. He can follow Agnew's, which is fascism, however camouflaged, he can do like the kids of honor, and get radicalized, or he can cop out and try to face himself, failing, sickening or what is worst of all, kidding himself and pretending he can.

Can you explain to me, in any rational terms, how these guys could have read their papers, no matter how distorted those papers present the news, or looked at the TV news, no matter how slanted, and not known the reality of Agnew, the contempt he has for honesty, his total unconcern for truth and fact? What in the world were they up to, what did they expect? Did they expect him to reform overnight, to lead a charge into the White House, to kill himself and his future and his crack at the Presidency is the reactionary trend continues? What conceivable thing could they have expected save their own self-defamation, the degrading of their intellects and that of all intellectuals? Or did they have a subconscious hope they could arrange such a cop-out, a yearning for something like this so they could hold onto the positions they love while seeming to take the path of honor? Well, I don't know if what I've said is comprehensible, but unless you men faces the reality, he'll wind up taking his own test. If you feel you can't discuss this with him and that what I have said is comprehensible to him, if you'd like, give him these letters. And my deepest sympathy. I know politics, politicians and the smile fascism shows until it needn't or can't. H