

*Zunobu*

2/6/68

Dear Dick,

Futility overwhelms when I read a letter like Sprague's of 2.4 to you. It is all so childish, so pointless, so without meaning. With the best intentions, too. I do not doubt his sincerity. I draw no sustenance when I read his analysis of the new Clark material. This is one of the reasons why, when I enjoy good personal relations with Fensterwald, like him personally and trust him with whatever I have that he wants, I do not and will not join his group.

I am very much for such an idea, if anyone can come up with something workable, without something other than futilities. I see very little visible work being done and none by those making the most strident sounds. I also fear that there are too many opportunities for disaster from some.

When he was going around digging up pictures I was all for what Sprague was doing and it was important. Now that he pontificates endlessly about what he does not understand and has suddenly been bit by the know-all, tell-all bug, I feel otherwise. He is perhaps the biggest confabulator among us, and we've paved too many roads already. Nothing against him personally at all. I offer these opinions in the hope they may help you. I tell him nothing I regard as important because there is no telling where it will stop.

Put Sprague in a conference room with those he mentions and there will be no deal, then or ever. This is best way to turn responsible people off.

I do not know how much time you have, and I do not want to be discouraging. I think it was not wise to announce Herald, as perhaps erroneously I take it you did. Keep this sort of thing to yourself save where it can do some good to let others know and then others you know you can trust. I've told only two, and I've asked both because I think they can help you.

If you are interested in Honest Joe, there is some of this in PW. You'll find the car or one of the cars was on Pacific....I just do not think a bunch of punks pulled this off. They could however, been used by pros, esp. to attract pointing fingers.

I do not recall your plans as you mentioned them. I will be home save part of 2/18, probably all day 2/14. I expect Bob Cutler here part of next week. There is room for you both. If you let me know when you expect to be here, I'll plan. Aside from raw materials, I've the ms of three books ready to publish and others partly done. You can read away. I'll write if this is your desire. Unless there is action in DC the week of 2/17, I have no plans for leaving.

Sincerely,

Herold Weisberg