

5/16/69

Dear Russ,

Your letter of the tenth and Bernabei both arrived day before yesterday. He will be in touch with you after he returns home, after he has had a chance to think about and canvass the possibilities. Your experience is in fields with which he has little contact. He is a professor of classics.

I write you early in the a.m., before I awaken the rest of the household for a safari to the National Archives. In the usual haste.

Felicitations on your various statuses, matrimonial (temporary) and draft (I hope more permanent).

Don't fret about the departure of those who worked on the Vallee thing. There is little more we could have hoped for (though it would be very good to know more about the license number). Those files mentioning his name are still suppressed, by request of the FBI. We've checked that out. I may carry this further under the Freedom of Information Act.

On Bevel, etc.: par for the course, from my limited experience. However, by accident, I may have made an end run while asleep. Through the enterprise of a young friend I think I've located a black literary agent who is dedicated to the subject. He is flying down to see me tomorrow. I'll take the liberty of mentioning your work. If he is interested, I'll put the two of you in touch. Then, if you want an agent and he wants you for a client....What most if not all the blacks do not seem to realize is that their behavior, in every case, is consistent with satisfaction that King is dead (long live, etc.), consistent with behavior that indicates his death opens up opportunities for the rise of other black leaders. Historically, at ~~least~~ least, not a pretty picture.

The clippings are interesting. I've copied and return herewith. There is more in De Zutter's two piece than he knows, more even than a sharp one like you spotted. That neck medallion is not Nazi, not "inuteman": it is the NSRP symbol. You might tell De Z this for me. And I'd like the rest of the series when they are out. I may want to add some of this. All that crap about what they call "Christianity" is also typical of the NSRP. And they are active in your area. But do not tell De Z all the things I have on the NSRP, merely indicate them in generalities, if he is interested. ...Would be interesting to know where in the big State of Colorado the training camp is. Might be with Brown.

Is it the writing in COUP of the more simplified subject matter? I like compliments, of course, but I wonder if it really is the writing. In the three limited editions, for speed (most of COUP took three days) and in an effort to simplify and make seem less technical I omitted most footnotes. Actually, COUP was written without outline, beginning as a magazine series, in three different periods. Most was done in three days the end of June while I was preparing for a trip to N.C., the second largest chunk was written after the cleanup following my return, and another a couple of months later, with a few smaller pieces being fitted in later. Now I've that much and more to add! You should see the pagination on the ms. I've numbers and letters and numbers and lowercase letters on some pages, viz 85A16c.

We do expect to be home when you'll be in the area and hope you'll spend some of the time here. Bring bathing suits. Gotta wake the native bearers.

Best,

5-10-69

Dear Harold,

Sorry to take so long replying to your letter of 5/2, but I got sick again. Just as I was regaining my strength from the pneumonia I came down with some sort of cold virus and got laid up again. The doctor gave me some mycin pills and I'm now recovering my strength again. Curiously, though, throughout this bout with illness I've gained twenty pounds. Imagine that, first time in 10 years that I've gained any weight.

Well, I now have one Xerox copy of COUP, so I'll send your copy back to you on Tuesday or Wednesday, insured and well packed.

My divorce finally went through yesterday. It's not final yet, that is, the papers still have to be signed & processed, but for all intents and purposes it's over with.

~~XXXX~~ My draft case is finally reaching its dramatic conclusion -- that is, as far as my conscientious objector claim is concerned. Monday I'm sending a registered letter to the United States Attorney in Chicago, asking him to prosecute the members of my local board for violating Regulation 1623.1 b which relates to the introduction of "outside evidence." I'll also probably grab the initiative by taking the case to the press on Tuesday, stressing its uniqueness. Of course, we don't actually expect to have the local board prosecuted, but we can probably delay the progress of the case by a couple months, and cause the local board much consternation.

In relation to Bernabei, since you say he's busy I don't suppose I'll write to him; also since you'll be seeing him you could probably check out with him what I'd like to know. As you know, we'll be going to New York in June, but we only have a place to stay there until September, then we'll either have to find an apartment there or leave. I'd rather leave. I'm seriously like to go up to Canada -- not fleeing the draft, but rather, to consolidate my position **OF SAFETY**, and to get the hell out of this crazy country. So I was interested in finding out how things are up there now: the political climate, how the housing situation is, the availability of jobs and how they pay. The last is my major problem; with child support and other matters I've got to make between \$150 and \$200 a week just to subsist. I've got five years experience in business management, related to advertising & public relations; I've got a year's experience as a radio newsman, and I finished about two years of college at Rutgers & Pitt. So when you see him you might ask his views on the possibilities.

Truth is stranger than coincidence: In the past month Len O'Connor, the reporter who was assigned to investigate Vallee, and who had become the only news analyst in Chicago broadcasting, popular and nearly priceless, has suddenly and unexplainedly departed from WMAQ-TV. Further, Bill Corley has been kicked up the ladder and is leaving next week to work at the NBC News Bureau in Moscow.

So now all three who were involved in the investigation of Vallee are no longer here.

My friend who's close to Bevel's brother has also been sick and disorganized for a while; but ~~it~~ it really begins to look ~~to~~ me as if they talk a lot about how concerned they are but really have no action whatsoever to back up the talk.

I've got a bunch of clippings here that I think you'd like to see. If I see my friend who usually makes copies of clippings for me I'll have copies made before I mail this on Monday. Otherwise I'll send you the originals & you can copy the ones you need and send the originals back when you have a chance. Sorry to put you to the inconvenience, but this guy who does the clippings for me has been pretty scarce lately. You'll find that the ones about the ~~the~~ guy spying on campus radicals has a wealth of information about the radical right in Illinois. The guy who wrote the articles, DeZutter, is the one I spoke to about joining ~~xxxx~~ in trying to track down Vallee. Again, I never heard anything from him. Apparently he ~~is~~ believes in writing from an objective viewpoint and not getting involved, or something like that. I told him he'd regret it if he and the other journalists here continued to maintain their aloof positions. It's appalling.

I've only had a chance to read the 1st 100 pages of COUP so far, but I think it's a blockbuster. On the one hand, it's easy to see why publishers today would be reluctant to touch it; but on the other hand I think their reluctance is a testimony to their lack of courage. For what it's worth, it's my feeling that COUP is written better than the other four, except for parts of OSWALD IN N.O.. What I mean by that is that it reads, for me, much easier and clearer than the three WHITEWASHes. That may be only because the WHITEWASH books referring to the Warren Report & these other two don't.

Do you expect to be at home during the last week or two of June? We'll probably have a few extra days, and if everything goes as it should we'll probably be wandering around saying "hello" to people and perhaps could crop in on you.

That's about it for now. Say hello to Lillian for us.

Rush

P.S. - It's now Sunday and I've read some more of COUP. As a result I underlined a portion of the DN article from 5-10-69. Looks like Brown does more than print pamphlets. By the way, do you have a contact at Grove Press?