

10/10/69

Dear both,

From there to here, airmail doesn't pay. One of the three sources of our P.O. is Harrisburg, and train/bus/truck between Pgh and there should be good enough.

I had just written you at NYC. Perhaps that letter has now reached you. I go there the 21st, returning night 22 or 23, and have to be in DC 24th, so I think almost any time would be better than 20th.

We'd wondered what had happened to you and about your silence.

Simon: I've been through it with RH. A good friend of his, Marcus Raskin, phoned him on my behalf. I also phoned him when ~~in~~ in NYC and got no callback. I have no doubt he is a fine, principled guy, but as you will learn, this is a different subject in publishing houses. Nonetheless, I have no doubt he'll be tried for my new agent is Abbie Hoffman's.

Thanks for the suggestion, though. In the past, RH has broken two contracts in this area.

On the trip here, why not try and borrow a car for a weekend?

Lil is plugging through the new (and longest)ms. It is more than twice as long as the book to which it is an "addition". The content is real good. I wish there were a way of turning the black militants and the Abbies on on it, but they will not respond, will not read, do not know what it says and has-means.

Let me remind you of the obvious: with the dishonesty of all the papers, it often happens that some carry what others do not. Therefore, if you see in the Pgh papers what interests me, clip and save, please.

If you plan to stay in Pgh and have to furnish your own place, there is a weekly auction here when you can get much cheaply. If I knew if you want a rotisserie, I could get you a good one now real cheap. As we get closer and closer to destitution, I spend for what we have not had. Just bought an excellent sofa, in perfect condition, cost \$350 new, \$50. People retiring and leaving area. Now we have more comfortable chairs than we have room for. If I can persuade Lil to get rid of our old (Lewson) sofa, which has springs needing retying, that will also be available.

Watch those cats at the NYReview.

Good to hear. Glad Lita likes it there. Hope you get something good right away. Helps with the diet! Let me know the alternate date you pick, if you can come. I'll be home from Washington 10/24 but super time and as of now, have no plans for leaving soon. However, it is remotely possible NY trip may produce something, and as the election in NO gets closer, I begin to have the feeling I may be asked to go there.

Gotta get to bed. Best from us both,

October 8, 1969

Dear Harold,

I can't apologize profusely enough for ~~me~~ not having been in touch with you before this. It's just that the last week that we were in New York both of us got sick (virus or something) and we didn't ~~me~~ know from day to day when we ~~were~~ were going to leave, then we had financial problems and we didn't know how we were going to leave, etc.

First things first. Last week I finally got a verdict from John Simon out the outline that I submitted him for a nonfiction book on repression, the one that we'd prepare from the material gathered by our research group. He said he liked the idea and thought it'd be good but Random couldn't publish it fast enough, so he referred me to the New York Review of Books. I'm now waiting to hear from them.

Now, as to ~~me~~ the possibility of you getting to him, I think that you should write to him immediately. Although I didn't ask him if anyone had talked to him about you, I did identify you as one of the people who would be assisting me in this effort, so you should get to him while I and the Research Group are still fresh in his memory. Random has begun publishing anything and everything related to the Left, and they give sizeable advances. As you may have heard, they gave Abbie Hoffman \$5,000 advance for a book it took him a week to write. Simon is good because he knows so many other people in New York and what they're doing that if he isn't interested for one reason or another he can tell you who would be. People that you could mention if you wanted to other than myself who are known and familiar to him: Florynce Kennedy, Grace Paley, both of whom have expressed an interest in your work on the Radical Right.

So we're living in Pittsburgh now. I'm working at the place where I'm writing this letter from temporarily while looking for a full time job here and also trying to drum up some financial support for the Research Group idea. Lita is fine and very happy here. This job ends a week from Friday coming, and I thought that if we can borrow a car the Monday after that we might drive out to visit you just for the afternoon or something and pick up those pots and pans you were talking about. I'll see how it looks for borrowing said car and wait to hear if you expect to be home then. I think the date then is the 20th.

Got to get back to work.

Our address is 5709 Elmer Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. (no phone yet)

  
Russ