

11/10/70

Dear Both,

Glad to hear you are both okay. I'm into too much to be able to reply at length. Your envelope was rather securely closed. The extremist literature you sent is a welcome addition to my files.

The things-troubles-you report are, as you know, no surprise to me, for I forecast such developments as probable, though not in detail. They were inevitable. I told you that those people owed their successes to their enemies, not their own efforts. It'd not be surprise to know that the schisms may have had the same inspiration. As I told you at least once, nothing replaces experience. The good that might have been done now and by them will not be. But I suspect something perhaps more viable will emerge and slowly may grow.

Your Philadelphia adventures were rather extensively reported. I believe someone also sent me clippings for the papers there.

You know the cliché about tides in the affairs of men. For most of them it was not swelled. For most of us it is full. They will be separate, will not listen, will do their own thing, will be self-destructive, until they learn the lessons such things teach.

One cannot help those who will not be helped.

Glad you are working and making out. Hope we see you soon.

The book has been edited down to what will make a mere 600 pages, and this after restriction to the King/Ray case alone. There ~~is~~ is no point in repeating any schedule for no single date has been met, the editing not having been begun until two days after its contracted completion, the proofs not having even been sent on time, and two or three weeks after we were to have had all of them by the latest schedule, we do not. But I think it remains a very good book. It will, unfortunately, have to be an expensive one.

Lil is okay, somewhat tired, with a persisting cold. I'm just tired. We plug along. My legal concerns look favorable, despite enormous odds.

Best to both,

11-3-70

Dear Harold,

I'm writing this tonight but won't mail it until tomorrow because I'll be going to the library tomorrow to make copies of some of the material I'm sending. I've picked up a lot of MM material -- much more than I could copy or send through the mail. Next time we see you I'll bring it all along. Do you know that the MM are having a reorganization? I hope to have some details on it in the next month.

Many things have happened since we last communicated; I think many of them will be of interest to you, so I'll try to go through them more or less chronologically and briefly.

As you probably know, many of our friends were among the Panthers arrested in the raids on the Philadelphia offices in August. What has not been made public about that incident is that the Panthers knew their offices were to be raided that night, and had orders that they were to defend two of the offices, hold out for as long as possible, but no policemen were to be shot. It certainly was an amazing example ~~in~~ ~~of~~ strict discipline and dedication -- to be under full scale attack, have weapons, and consistently shoot to miss. But to the detriment of the Black Panther Party, the leaders of those groups that defended the offices ~~are~~ no longer members -- they've all either quit or been expelled. As King's organization and all the others before them, the BPP has fallen ~~in~~ victim to political intrigues and power struggles within their organization; and many of their best and strongest people are being forced to leave or are being ousted. It may have something to do with Huey's being ~~in~~ out.

The Constitutional Convention Plenary session, as you know, came off quite well for the most part. Many, many good ideas were brought out, and the workshops all had a refreshing anti-Soviet flavor to them. People over and over again said that they didn't like the way things were in this country, but at the same time they didn't want to bring about the type of society that they have in the USSR and China. However, there were many disappointments at the Plenary session because of the manipulation of the entire affair by the Panthers. Things were cancelled and changed without checking with anyone at all, many major decisions -- such as where to hold the convention itself -- were postponed until nearly everyone had left. Indications coming from the BPP are that the convention will not be manipulated -- it will be totally controlled by them. This is very sad, because the philosophies expressed at the plenary session truly ~~represented~~ a revolutionary outlook for this country and was truly groups of all outlooks getting together, and now it looks as though it's going to be victim of the same kind of political power struggle that the BPP itself is falling victim to.

Curiously, RISC also fell victim to that same type of thing. We came very close to being able to pull off that petition to the United Nations. As you may know, the Communist Party is sponsoring a petition to the U.N. on genocide, which they expect to have on the calendar at the U.N. sometime in the next month. In August

we went and met with William Patterson, who was the head of the campaign, and who actually presented a petition to the U.N. in 1951 charging the U.S. with genocide. He thought about it for a while and finally wrote and said that he could both endorse and support our campaign, and he referred us to the person who was coordinating the campaign in New York, Charlene Mitchell. We went to talk to her, and she said she'd be glad to have our campaign become a part of their campaign, and they would get our petition on the calendar at the U.N., but they had no money to give us. It was impossible for us to do it without some kind of funding and we couldn't find that anywhere, so we gave up the idea.

At about that same time, probably prompted by my being made chairman of the committee for the plenary session, some of the people in our group who hadn't been doing much of the work and who in fact hadn't been around much, decided that they wanted more say in the organization, and in fact they wanted control of the group. So there was a split in the organization, with Paul Boas, Rich, Lita and me and ~~an~~ a few others who'd been in the group since its inception on the one side, and these other people on the other side, and many people who should have been reliable refusing to take a stand for fear of making enemies. It worked out well time-wise for them, because I explained to them that after the plenary session I was going to have to go back to work, and they could do what they wanted to. Well, I've been working now for nearly two months, and we're now making arrangements to close down the RISC storefront -- the phone bill hasn't been paid, the paper bill hasn't been, the printing press hasn't been used, and the office hasn't been staffed in over a month. The organization is actually dissolved now, although not officially yet. I think when we sort it out I may have ~~af~~ a few dollars for you because I think some of the books I got from you were sold.

I've been working as a printer's helper on a big web-fed press in a factory that makes Christmas paper. It's not a particularly good job, but it keeps us going. I work at a second job when I can, and I think we'll be financially straightened out in a few more weeks.

What's happening with the publication of Coup? How is Lil? Lita's fine and is finally putting on weight again. I guess that's all for now, hope to hear from you soon.

Russ