

4 November 1971

Dear Harold:

This brief response will be about all we probably shall be able to do about your various mailings of Oct. 24, 28 and 31. We seem to be emerging from our colds, but still slowly, and we have difficulty keeping up with things.

First of all we note with pleasure your apparent optimism that JER has finally got the idea and seems to be dissuaded from trying the impossible. Your letters to him always are marvels of tact and cheer, exactly right, we should think, for someone in his position. And we read with much interest your prospective trip to Dallas and New Orleans. Let's hope the man with the moola becomes even more hospitable to ideas.

As for our friend Ned, in spite of all that you have said about him, we have difficulty figuring him out. At present it's a tossup between the all-too-typical American narcissist and the spoiled brat, perhaps a combination of both. I use the term narcissist in the sense that Reich Fromm once explained it most eloquently -- a person who is totally isolated from the rest of the world, therefore knows only himself (and that with much distortion) and is incapable of understanding how other people feel. Narcissus admired his image in the pool because he was so ignorant, inexperienced and cut off that he dared not look at other people. There was another psychiatrist who wrote most effectively on this subject, someone named Dr. Editha Friede, who had a book out 10 or more years ago on the general subject of love, (in the broadest sense) and who also saw narcissism as a common, almost universal and rapidly growing failing in this country.

I think the doctor you saw discussing China on TV was a Dr. Dimond of the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Never heard of him before, but he seems very much on the beam from the stories I've seen on what he has to say. His mention of Dr. Lin I can't recall him now. However George Hatem is another matter. I've never met him, but through Ed Snow, have been highly conscious of this remarkable man since Snow first mentioned him (though not by name at the time) in Red Star Over China in 1937.

Snow met Hatem in Sianfu when he was getting ready to enter the Red areas in 1936 for the first time. Hatem was doing the same thing, and they travelled together for some months. When Snow returned to Peking in 1960 he saw Hatem again, and devoted a couple of chapters to him in the resulting book, The Other Side of The River. Now, ~~the~~ in the updated version of that, called Red China Today (Vintage paperback, \$3.45), he has two updated chapters on Hatem.

Hatem was born in Buffalo, N.Y. the son of an immigrant Lebanese textile worker. Because a sister's health was permanently impaired by poverty-caused illness, Hatem wanted to be a doctor and finally became one via the ~~University of~~ American University in Beirut and the University of Geneva. He wound up in Shanghai running a VD clinic in the old International Settlement, where he became so disgusted with the end products of capitalism and imperialism that ~~he~~ when he heard about what the Reds were doing he started for the Northwest and there met Snow. He was with them

all through the Japanese and civil war, and when they took over in Peking in 1949 they turned him loose on venereal disease. As you know by now, those diseases are entirely eliminated in China. The techniques he and his Chinese associates worked out in training medical personnel and organizing and indoctrinating villagers to cooperate have made great inroads against malaria, leprosy, kala azar, ringworm, hookworm, schistosomiasis and ~~filariasis~~ filariasis. Snow says that because he has been with the Chinese Communists continuously for more than 25 years he knows more about them than any ~~other~~ other foreigner. Ed adds that he married one of the most beautiful and intelligent girls in China, and they now have two young sons. The girl was a Shanghai movie star who went over to the Reds shortly after Hatem himself did. Hatem goes by the Chinese name of Ma Hai-teh. If I went to Peking, I think he's the one person I'd insist upon meeting.

Sorry, I can't give you more than ^{an} impression of Gene Roberts -- that like many NY Times and AP men, he sometimes worked both sides of the street but always wound up on the right side. However, don't take this as final. We have not had time to dig into our early files and see just what he wrote. It will mean consulting several old files in order to cover the ground and get a comprehensive idea. I agree that he was not particularly hostile to the critics -- that's my impression -- but I have equally firmly ~~held~~ the impression that he never gave them the same weight as the official story. I actually met him for a moment here a couple of years ago and was not too favorably impressed. He appeared genuinely intelligent, but also pretty fast on his feet. Again, don't take this as more than a hasty impression. We'll try to exhume some of his stuff and see just what he said. Incidentally, Lane once told me he had no reason to trust anyone on the Times except Pete Kihss. This was very early in the game, in the winter of 1964. I've never met Kihss, but what I've seen of his writing was genuinely straight down the middle. The one man I do know slightly is Salisbury, who at least had the grace, after writing that introduction in the Times' version of the Warren Report, to do a piece for The Progressive some years later admitting he had been all wet.

We agree with Lil. You should stop trusting people who have the potential to turn out to be on the make, and, while not necessarily becoming a hermit, try to not to expose yourself so much to people are have the gall to take advantage of you. Could O&D have done a better job for certain parties if they had been on the payroll? Could Ned have? His type we apparently always have had with us, but it seems to me he's becoming considerably more omnipresent these days.

Best of luck on your trip, and all the best to you both,


jdw

11/8/71

Dear Js,

Got the mail at the p.o. this a.m. en route to D.C. and filing my statement on Powell with the Injudicial Committee. After parking car next your 11/4 in the cab. You are right on the doctors (we both found this very interesting--did read when I got home) and it had to be the same Dr. Haten for part of that broadcast was on the complete readication of VD in China...Dallas trip off and on over weekend. Rich bastard worried about cost, but trip to Other two places being extended to include Dallas. We'll see....Analysis on Ned quite precise in most areas. He is not isolated but has been consciously involving himself in some of the mildly liberal community things, and an African committee, things like that. Most most of his are class contacts, within his own. Even here you are half right, because he does know only himself despite not being isolated, which is strange. He also really thinks of nothing but himself, which led him to ruin his rep forever by sending three otherd copies of his incredible letter of the 2nd to me. Two had conversed in outrage and one with temporary access to a WAIS line phoned tonight to say my response was rather moderate. and he didn't mean for me only. He couldn't believe the arrogance. The others are now getting paranoid and wondering if it can be that he is some kind of agents They're bright, young and inexperienced.

By now you know some of what I have to swing with JER. Twon't be easy.

I'd prefer to believe Dr. Friede wrong but I couldn't muster a strong rebuttal.

We were both unaware of and are fascinated by Haten's background.

Your account of Roberts squares with everything I know and is an understatement of the impression I formed when Salisbury had no meet with him and the others of their aborted "investigation" of 1967, which I believe I cause. Salisbury saw me the day they fired Stanlet Kauffmann, which was quite a day at the Times! and I gave him a copy of the ms of WWII that subsequently got lost. On Kinss I agree with Lane, which is not common. Except I had the same feeling about Wicker, who has changed that way, when he was bureau chief and I met him in 1965, and he read the ms of WW, sent it to Salisbury, who was also impressed. It is Wicker who decided me to do a private printing, for whereas before he read it he said he tossed all that came to him into the wastebasket without reading, after reading he felt it was the only way the book could appear. S. said that while he couldn't do anything to help, they'd have a "lively news interest" when it came out. Which translated into reality means - made them pay for the 14th copy, they never mentioned, never reviewed, and wouldn't even list in books received. But have you a better notion of the second Salisbury position now? I was with Wicker when he got the ms back and he read me the letter. There was a weirdo problem with Norton's, and when I learned its nature (natch the author is the one guy who can't do or know anything), I said why not ask someone like Wicker? They also read his letter encouraging them to publish. It was later killed because I couldn't alter it to suit the conspiratorial interpretation of an old-time, formerly liberal (unchan ged in his 70th year) lawyer that had read it. He wanted the wildest charges in it.

You and Lil and right except for two things: first it is not my nature not to trust people without reason, and second in my position I have little alternative. Besides, ned came with the auspices of one of the closer of my young friends. On OGD your point is correct, and it is immaterial whether they did what they did under pressure, as agents, from incompetence. The end is the same. I think they have overdone it a bit, though, and have handed me a fraud case. If so, it may help get what they still owe.

On your colds: we are not much for pills, take what we are told to, mostly but only when it is serious always, and when I found wine is a good tranquilizer, I largely dispensed with them. An accident we found (after seeing the first Crisan commercial) that the ebendryl prescribed for me to take when I react to insect sting works for us. It comes in two strengths, 25 and 50 mg as I recall. These are the 25s. The moment we feel a cold coming on, which isn't often, we pop and and never have a cold. Been years.

Many thanks for the stamps. But please use the largest ones you can get when you send things to me, for two reasons: they are attractive and are usually what we don't see here (and Lil saves them for kids), and often they don't get cancelled. Two of the three on this I'll use again. It got so common I got a small 10¢-store paste jar and keep it on the desk. However, if this is a hint that my letters are getting there with postage due, it means that my rather expensive Pelouze scale is off and I'd like to know. We are so broke I practise all possible economies, like filing the envelopes to the mark. I never go over it. If it is wrong, I'll get a weight and set it correctly. I wondered about this when JER sent me both a letter and apparently the one Valentine he sent out. It didn't seem to be overweight, but there was postage due. I weighed it and according to my scale it was barely to the mark. You might enjoy the card. I have it on the wall. If it sound like fun, I can't copy the color, but I can copy. Legends: 'Tis Halloween. Would you like to Join the United Vampires of America (and under this a seal with a green, blubous-nosed, long-toothed witch), "inside, we need some fresh blood in the Organization". And his note, "Guess who this reminds me of?"

Just saw and ~~xxxx~~ read the marked part of that John Darnton story on Powell. Would I have loved that quote for the hurried statement I submitted today! I'll read it and the other clips as I can. I'm trying to catch up on the things to write tonight because the burnishing in posting corrections in PM is easier done in daylight, which discloses shows better than artificial light. If I do this nights, I have to check each page in daylight.

Returned Hazelon clip: I wrote him but the clerk intercepted the letter. So, I wrote again.

UPI Contreras Castro/Kaplan story: part I can confirm from my source, whose real name is (sit tight) Pearl Gonzalez Fishbine, and she is not on a engira for the AP, going over the trail of the conquistadores as they did it! However, she doubts the coains C.C. makes. She knew Kaplan and the lawyers well, his Mexican life, etc., and has interviewed them all. She wanted to collaborate on a book. I hear from her often but won't for three weeks, under this blistering (feet or buttocks-mules) is over. Glad to have this for record. I'll read Freep Jackson story later.

KPHL-Cook interview v. interesting on Mancino (I think the local publicity you spotted got him back to Calif.), preceptive in the Warden's purposes, etc. Leading to a friend who is a friend of others.

Gotta get to other mail so a.m. will be free. Here we need snow tires. I've phoned and made a date with Jerry Ray, with whom I'll be sharing a motel room in suburban Knoxville. He is getting me at airport next Tuesday and, believe it or not, is also my wife's appointed advance man, with several TV shows lined up! Better than shooting a guy, even if you catch him stealing, as Jerry did. The case was so transparent, even Stoner got him off. Like my friends? Hows about you advice on using Sony tapes will come in handy. I feel I'd best use 120s for the (non-clandestine) interviews, and with that handy warning. I'll be getting them in a.m., so that if it snows here, I'll be ready. First part advances already advanced and in hand, to be banked a.m. If you know any dependable reporters in N.O. or Dlass, please let me know pronto.

Lil enjoyed Je's card. She asked me to say so for she'd prefer to keep knitting while she is relaxing a bit before bed. Since my last progress report she has gotten up to the bottom of the name and hasx started spelling it out. Which means closer to the end.

Thanks and best,