

9/5/71

Dear Moon-hidden Js,

Time was when a half-hour in which there wasn't time for writing or thought-holding was welcome for readings, but when I'm in A Search For Justice, which isn't and doesn't search for it, I intend no slight in saying any alternative is welcome. So, with these 30 minutes, I've done what I had to, retype the tentative table of contents to the completed III (unless I can find more in the pix I have and am getting (hence When To Lose Is To Win)), and I enclose a copy in ~~text~~ the event the darkside provides a few minutes for thought out there. You can't know the contents of each chapter, but perhaps have can have an opinion about how these are as chapter heads. They do not reflect deep thought, for which there is rarely time. They are what popped into my mind as I was working.

I had planned, actually started, what I regard as the proper perspective on the H.O. parts, with Fat Tuesday, but although it took only three or four pages, abandoned it. I have to keep this as tight as I can and still give the uninformed a basis for comprehension.

I've made a very few adds, integrated them, and when I'm fresh, perhaps 5 a.m., I'll draft a new intro into the whole monster. I'll use part of what is tentatively 1. here and more. That intro will cover the whole work. Until I reread this I will not now know whether any of it will remain here.

Perhaps you can understand how confusing it is to do a book off the top of the head, without notes or files at hand, to do perhaps 75,000 words in a month while doing other things (too many of them), including research on what is about to be written and what has just been written, to have company and working company, keep correspondence up, keep fighting the official memory hole, etc. Couple of years ago, without all these distractions, I'd have been disappointed if these few words had taken any more than 10 days, but I was fifty years younger in 1967. Aside from the quality of the work, where I'm too close to judge, and the questions of formulation and organization, where there may be legitimate criticism, I think I have the most powerful and politically-potential thing yet.

= Just got this Hermes back a few minutes ago. I'll have to readjust to the slight difference in keyboard and its slant. They have, I hope, solved the mystery of the out-jumping ribbon. They found I was correct and know of no precedent. It is unreported in Hermes literature. I can only hope the remedy is effective. This was using ribbons like I wish I didn't smoke.

As always, Lil is reading and picking up what she can. She is more than a third of the way through. When she has to rectify my exotic spelling (more attributable to the days farming than ignorance, for I was a keen speller as a kid), from which one would never guess I had a pretty good rep as an editor in the 30s, and wonder about my 19th-century affection for long sentences, and comprehensibility, she already has too much. When she has finished, we'll go over her questions and then she'll start typing the finished ms. Or, again, a hastily-read rough draft will be the finished product. If this is undesirable, the alternatives are worse. I have to be ready for real negotiations, now promised, with the corrupt government that will not offer or accept a reasonable settlement in out notice-damage suit, shortly after the weekend. This means not only convincing and bargaining and preparing for trial, but also finding time for the return to two started books, Agent Oswald and Tiger. But we have to speed, because Lil will soon be in tax season, our only and then slight regular income and I'll have to condense the first part and she'll have extensive retyping to do. Then she'll index, and it is not overweening pride that says she's the best at it. Take a look at WW or PW and see what she does and can do, under pressure...With recent experiences with a crooked publisher (aren't they all?) and the topicality, esp. in an election year, I am also exploring the possibilities of private funding of what will today be more handicapped, a private printing. It does have the advantages of freedom and immediacy that perhaps I can exploit-if I can arrange it...I spent years getting what I'd planned to use for this part, then forgot all of it and did it cold. I hope I'm not wrong, but I think it is, without that ignored accumulation, better for it. How good it would be if one could over know! Best regards,