

21 February 1975

Dear Harold:

This is supposed to dispose of your mailings of Feb. 10, 14 and 15.

Yr 2/7 note to Don Stanley, I don't know him nor Raznikov, but if asked would have expressed doubt about Raznikov, whom we saw briefly in action once. Looks a bit wild and on the make, but it's hard to say, of course. In any case his stuff in Pacific Sun leaves much to be desired and seems to follow your favorite crazies out the window.

Thanks for the effort to get us a copy of Agee via Finley. Be sure to let us know what comsts are involved. We note here that Colby has vowed anew to prevent its publication in this country.

This is to warn that you may be losing your clout, Weisberg. Either that or you didn't really like "Ambassador Nixon?" This is according to your own theory that if you like it the Times could not possibly. Well, the Times ed to whom I sent it mailed it back with a surprising note calling it interesting and wondering if I could be persuaded to cut it. Too long for the section in mind.

In the meantime Korff (Feb. 10) and Ziegler (Feb. 14) had got off basically identical denials of both the ambassadorial reverie and the willingness to he'p the good old party out. Both were non-denials if read carefully, tending to confirm the authenticity of the original trial balloons which now had to be hauled back, presumably due to subterranean horror among Republicans.

Anyway, I did the whole thing over, leading off with Korff and Ziegler, managing to shorten it by a third or so but not the half the Times hinted strongly it would appreciate. I still doubt the Times will use it, but naturally/^{am}encouraged by the interest, however mild.

Meanwhile their failure to buy it is clearly your fault. If you had come right out and SAID you couldn't stand it, the Times of course would have had no choice but to print it in full in the original version.

That's the trouble with you hot-headed youngsters -- you go off on wild excursions and then in the crunch you're somewhere else than where you're needed. I must say that your handling of this matter makes one wonder whether something else is at work. You wouldn't be the first to be used by the Department of Misinformation and not know it, you must realize. It is not only cunning; it is well informed and undoubtedly knows all about your reverse influence with the Times, and diabolically programmed you to LOATHE my article but to pretend otherwise, but not strongly enough to do anything but plant uncertainty in the mind of the Times ed, who has her sources too. Think it over, Weisberg. We are not alone, etc. etc.

But don't tell anyone, eh ?

HW:

If Lil has one of these small electronic calculators (with the illuminated digital readout), or has access to one, you both might enjoy the following cultural exercise:

142 Arabs fought

(punch 142 only, don't hit any other button, such as +)

154 Israelis over

(Keep going. Punch 154 without hitting any other button)

69 barrels of oil for

(After 69, NOW hit the x button)

for 5 days.

(Multiply by 5)

Who won ?

The apparent answer will be the figure

14215469 x 5, or 71077345.

Since you can't read Arabic, you'll have to rotate the calculator 180 degrees to get the answer in English, by reading the figure upside down.