

30 December 1974

Dear Harold:

Herewith a small accumulation which might as well be on its way to you. We have nothing much to report, except to note what appears to be a Big Silence from San Clemente. If a normal person were involved it probably would be normal, but with Nixon? Perhaps he's just waiting for the verdict in the Washington trial. But with Laguna Niguel and his own foundation threatening to blow, something may be brewing. (see enclosed).

Yes, we would be grateful for the long Crewdson piece in the Sunday Times for Dec. 15, since you have a spare. And if you really have a spare we'd be very glad indeed to have the Playboy article on Dean. Thanks for thinking of us.

Since you are such an enthusiastic admirer of Warren Hinckle III, I enclose his latest from the op ed page of the Times. There are times when he writes very entertainingly.

Re Ramparts, I wouldn't challenge your conclusion that none of their exposes, not even regarding the CIA, has failed to serve some spook interest. But I couldn't buttress it without a great deal of checking and re-reading for which there is no time. I can say, however, that it has seemed here for many years that the continued existence of this rather expensively produced magazine in this particular segment of the political spectrum could only be explained on the presumption that they were getting solid amounts of dough from some source. I was in their office once. A shambles. Such disorganization and confusion as to make it certain that they could never survive on their own abilities. As you know, the top staff has changed several times, always mysteriously picking up after being publicly prostrate. They may know what their editorial policy is, but no one else does, and this has always been the case since it ceased to be an unpretentious Catholic liberal magazine just starting up. They have a way of evading some issues which I don't understand, and can only assume there's a reason besides eccentricity. Nothing I can think of contradicts your assumption.

Finally, I enclose a couple of clippings from the local weekly, sidebars on the Ellsberg papers incident. Both contain bits which should interest you.

Glad you told us about your insurance adjustor, whose kindness we can't explain except that he has some knowledge of your work and what it means. We do have an insurance agent who is very good and very helpful, but we've known him for almost 20 years, so the species is not extinct. However in your case your man seems to have wrapped it up with some personal interest that didn't stem from liking your voice over the telephone. As you describe the wreck, \$350 sounds reasonable. A VW tuneup, which used to cost around \$15, at most, is now around \$45. Gives you an idea.

Sorry, we missed the Missiles of October; You're the second person who has praised it. Truth is we so seldom watch commercial TV or even check what it's doing that we had no idea such a program was coming, and that day I didn't get to the Chronicle (which had a TV column featuring it) until after the program had been aired late at night. If you ever ~~see~~ hear of a rerun, hope you'll be able to let us know.

Best from us both,

