

23 December 1974

Dear Harold:

This will be a catch-all attempt to take care of correspondence from you dating from Nov. 30 (date of mailing) through Dec. 18. Too many chores both outside and inside the house have kept me from it earlier.

Sorry, I can't remember whether the Year of Our Ford comes from Brave New World or 1984. I no longer have a copy of either book, and as I think of it it seems equally attributable to both. I'd be inclined toward Brave New World, but it should be checked. My impression is that Huxley was more in the mood to use the Ford figure in the mid-thirties than Orwell would have been later on.

~~last~~ By the way, we saw the CBS hour-long interview with EMK ~~tonight~~, and feel on balance that he has only strengthened the suspicions of those who entertain them. Repeated himself too much. The message we got was, basically, that he's not going to blow or upset anything so please don't clobber him again. Hope we're wrong, but he seemed to be hoping that he could dampen the Chappaquiddick curse enough to be able to hope that it would have been vanquished entirely by 1980.

I appreciate your mystification about Eason and Spann. I don't KNOW anything but for some time I've entertained the suspicion they're under some sort of a hold-down order. Okay to have nuts like Mae, but don't rock the boat with anything solid and explosive. For that matter, Spann never was the somewhat daring venturer that Eason was at one time. To be honest, I can't stand to listen to either of them recently. Their guests are vapid nobodies and the level is excruciatingly trivial. The other talk show jockeys on ABC are even worse, and that's it.

I've not been able to talk to any bookstore owners about WWIV, having gone into a couple and found everyone running around in circles trying to wait on the Christmas trade. Apparently it would do more harm than good not to wait until after the rush is over.

The one thing I've tried has produced no result. We sent Hal a happy holidays card (as we have occasionally in the past, to which he never replies) and I included an FYI note, in case he hadn't heard, that WWIV was out, available and on what terms. No reply, and it was at least a week ago, so apparently he's ducking. His comic book store stocks some books, I'm told, mostly used paperbacks, and if he's still interested here's his chance. Be interested to know if you ever hear from him about it, and I hope I've not scared him away in some way.

The Times for Dec. 16 hasn't come in yet. When it does I'll be sure to copy the Mardian testimony for you.

All local coverage (4 papers altogether) omitted any mention of Ellsberg's address in reporting the ripoff, which we agree is not a coincidence. So the phone company wouldn't give it to me either, even if his number is listed. He probably moved here after the current directory was issued, so the fact he doesn't appear in it means nothing. Anyway, I'm not stirring up any animals by trying to get in touch with him, and will try to see that your stuff for him gets there without doing so. Assume it's done unless you hear differently.

Best, *Jim* jdw