

Sept. 10, 1964

Dear Tom: Thank you for your letter and thoughts both on Vietnam and the Vietnam article I had written. As you suggested, and in somewhat secularized form, I have submitted it to Ted Roszak at Peace News. I know of Roszak--in fact handled some basically bureaucratic correspondence with him for Liberation. I had hoped in fact to see him while we were in London (staying with some PN people) but he hadn't yet arrived.

The CW ~~is~~ decided against using the article, by the way, which I regretted. I think there is a ~~is~~ tendency in the CW to avoid articles which are at all geared to what Bayard Rustin terms "the nitsy-gritsy". So I have submitted a draft similar to the PN text to Liberation. If they choose not to use it, I have several other publications in mind.

Your remark about finding Vietnam more depressing than the bomb tests struck home. I feel the same way. There was some ^{thing} abstract--in fact invisible--about the hell we were unleashing in the wombs of generations to come via those tests in the [;] pacific. But here we are quite literally roasting the innocent alive each day. I can think of not one redeeming aspect or glorious feature about our participation in the Vietnamese War.

I think to a large extent the problem ~~springing from~~ -- our profound ability to be blind to evil in certain contexts -- ^{spring} from the way we respond to Communism here. A remark Pastor Neimoller made comes back: "In Germany they first came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists~~x~~, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up

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because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me--and by that time there was no one left to speak up."

One of the particular qualities I have always admired about Dorothy Day ^{has been} ~~was~~ her perserverance, despite enormous criticism, with Communist friendships. This was true ~~ex~~ even of her ties with Elizabeth Gurly Flynn who, until her recent death, was chairman of the Communist Party in this country.

So many others, without even really meaning to, have gone the other way, helped ~~inxsmaixxwaxxixx~~ water the seeds of hatred and fear in the name of anti-Communism. ^{Or have watered those seeds in silence} And now, not only in Vietnam, but every-~~wh~~ where the poor are breaking their shackels, we reap the bitter harvest of that hatred. We have raised a generation which can hate the Communist as the Nazi could hate the Jew.

I was happy to hear of your cheering on ^{of} Tom Ritt. He called the other day, after receiving your letter, and read it to me. Your encouragement has meant a great deal to him during this low and humiliating period in his life. If we could raise some money, I think we could put him to fruitful service ^{speaking for} ~~with~~ the Roman Catholic Peace Fellowship (which I shall be writing you about in the near future)

There is one matter concerning the peace fellowship I would like to raise with you right away, however, and that concerns the circulation of Cold War Letters and Peace in the Post-Christian Era. John and I have discussed the potentials for a highly controlled but effective distribution of both these texts and two or three others. Dan Berrigan has given us the ok to mimeo or offset for private circulation a book on Christian Action in the social order, which twice the Jesuits have thumbed down. It also seems likely that Brother Antoninus will let us circulate his suppressed autobiography.

While such activity would be of less than ~~we~~ central significance in

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the fellowship's overall effort, it nonetheless will not be without meaning, as I ^Am sure you will realize.

If this publishing is to be carried out, we will probably begin in October or November.

Much love to you, In Christ.

Jim

Dear Tom: One important item which isn't mentioned in the attached letter. We are currently in the process of having a letterhead made up for the Roman Catholic Peace Fellowship and have decided that, as many receiving letters from the RCPF will never have heard ~~x~~ of the FOR, we ought to list five or six names as sponsors. These thus far include Archbishop Roberts, Dan Berrigan, Bob Lax, Karl Stern and possibly Dorothy Day and one or two others. We would much like to add yours. Is this possible?

Jim

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