

876 Richmond Ave.
Staten Island 2, N.Y.

March 30, 1964 Monday

Dear Tom:

After over a year of patient saving of store stamps—we get one every time we spend a dime, ten for a dollar's purchase, etc—we have gotten an fm radio and are once again able to hear WBAI, our local listener supported radio station which provides us with such a rich & flow of free conversation and debate, music from all over, numerous programs which would really be impossible on any other station. I have just finished listening to Chief Albert Lithuli — the nonviolent Christian leader under house arrest in South Africa who, in 1960, was awarded the Nobel peace prize. He is a man with a deep, resonant and calm voice. We hear conflicting reports of the possibilities of his views prevailing among the native Africans in their resistance to the apartheid regime, but I am certainly impressed by him. Enclosed is a copy of one of the WBAI program folios, which I think you will find of interest.

We are moving along very satisfactorily with the Catholic Peace Fellowship at this point and should soon have the first mailing ready — within a month's time I hope. I too feel it is a great misfortune to have to do this when something like PAX is in existence but I see no alternative. PAX apparently is satisfied to be simply the publisher of an unnecessary magazine (Peace) which adds nothing to things like the CW, Commonwealth, Jubilee, Ramparts, Continuum and Cross Currents—in fact does not even approach them in providing useful materials. What we must do is reach into the intellectual centers of Catholic thought with speakers—such as Archbishop Roberts—study packets, translations and key articles. The needs for serious, carefully organized, comprehensive source materials is enormous.

Both Jean and I will be in Europe to participate in the Christian Peace Conference this summer and then elsewhere in a more exploratory fashion — Poland, East Germany, Rome and then we'll have to see where else. We are, as a result of our penniless state, going to & be in the graces forever of an anonymous sponsor, as will a Catholic priest who is going free also. Naturally I will be reporting to you on this in detail as time goes on. There is such a ferment going on in the Marxist countries, very much in line with Pacem in Terris, an effort to relate the social order to the common good, to establish a minimally coercive society which is sanely and productively & structured. I believe I sent you John Heidbrink's paper on his last year's trip into ~~the~~ Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, which I found extremely stimulating and useful.

I sent out—via the Herald Tribune—a number of copies of the Hannah Arendt article on the Deputy—which was the most lucid comment I've seen on the issues raised by the play. Too much of the discussion as centered around speculations on whether the Pope was or was not a good man, which is not the issue. What is the issue is the role of the Pope or of anyman in spiritual authority to speak clearly against the evils of his day.

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We do not know how successful it was for Our Lord to chase the money changers from the temple--the final effect of the act is not recorded. I do not think the action was prompted by a consideration as to whether it would succeed ultimately in abolishing the evil. Nor do I think was he concerned with the danger to himself that might result. This is a difficult attitude of course, but we must strive for it, and hold it up to our leadership.

Jean and I hope to see the play, and intend to purchase a copy of the text.

The calligraphies are lovely, particularly one of the two packs. I will call Emil and discuss the possibilities of a small, expresso type exhibition--a subject i know really little about. The idea is a good one, though, I and I think something can be arranged. Perhaps in your next letter you might include some of your ideas on calligraphies, some statement about them, which could be used in promoting the show. And if something can be arranged, I would like to divide the money--the half you have permitting me to keep--between the new Catholic Worker press and the Catholic Peace Fellowship. Incidentally, it is my guess that these calligraphies should be signed. I will probably send these down to you for that purpose sometime in the next month or so.

There are several clipping enclosed and soon I want to mail you a copy of a book called Modern Poland, published in paper by Grosset & Dunlap. It is an anthology of various articles and fiction from Poland which cover many areas which I am sure you will find facinating.

I have been speaking more frequently on Staten island about the race problem and though there is still a huge number of deeply seated fears and misunderstanding concerning the Negro and Puerto Rican, but particularly the Negro, there is an obvious increase in interest. Incidentally, what is going to happen to your Ramparts article? It really should be made available in a pamphlet in huge quantities. Jean and I definitely feel this is one of the most comprehensive and incisive articles yet written, extremely good.

Will comment on the two articles you sent in next letter.

Much love in Christ and Happy Easter,

two things:
yes, that review will be in CW. Thanks for the ok to quote from preface. a guy named Richard Murphy may drop you a line with a few things that might be of interest. i don't know whether you're able to respond of course but I didn't discourage him when he mentioned his interest in so doing. He is now in the Air Force, is a friend of my wife's for many years & is thinking seriously about becoming a co. He's done a lot of fine work in the air force along such line. While stationed in the Azores he ran the local Airforce radio station, having symposiums on nonviolence, tax refusal, conscientious objection, etc--until they finally booted him off the air. Later he sent a requisition through for an

elephant, just to see, in the bureaucracy, how far such an absurdity would get. Well, it went through the sergeant, the commanding officer, the next link of command, everybody signing away without looking at it until it arrived at the supply center in Indiana or some such place, when finally the signing stopped and it actually had to be read. Richard was almost court martialed for it all, but they decided the commanding officer was implicated by his signature on the requisition and so they just shoved him off to the back woods. He's soon to be sent to someplace called Lake Moses in the middle of Washington state. Also, he's working on a series of essays along the theme—Out of Step in the Armed Forces, dealing with what happens to the CO, the homosexual, and various other groups which are either intrinsically out of harmony with the structure, or simply disliked by the structure, though they may in fact be no real threat. A very interesting guy. And a good sense of humor.

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