

Dec 10, 1967

Dear Tom:

Perfectly okay to use the letter of Feb. 1962 though I can't remember what kind of point it had. If you want it, that's all right with me. I am glad the book is getting on toward completion.

Your few words on the Lay Congress are absolutely the first thing I have heard about it whatever. I am not so sure that the omission of the proposition about "selective" objection was a complete disaster (I know you don't think that either). My feeling on that, at the moment, is that it is much more realistic to work for abolition of the draft as a perfectly logical and practical political option, and then the issue of selective objectors or any other will no longer arise. It seems to me that even in the logic of the hawks, a draft is no longer a practical necessity-- unless of course we wish to run all the small nations in the world. And maybe that is what the hawks want. But for "defense", as long as we have the kind of arsenal we have, we certainly do not need any more than a professional army. I believe that the VN war has brought this issue to a head now and it ought to be made one of the issues in the election. Probably won't be of course, and there may be other better ways of getting at it.

Also I am convinced, as you are I think, that a Catholic peace movement has to be identified with non-violent resistance and not get messed up in a confusion of mindless and aimless fighting. The discipline bit was never so important: a matter of real identity.

I'm going to have to write to Jim and say I can't sign Dan's telegram. The idea of asking the Pope to issue a condemnation is something I balk at: even theological ones, but political ones more so. I think the American allergy to this kind of "interference" of the Pope in the affairs of nations is basically right, even though it may be a question of war crimes. It is the job of our bishops, if anyone. The question of the Jews would have been different, because no one has a right to use genocide. Of course the VN war is tending to genocide... Well, anyway.

All my best, blessings, love and
joy in the Lord

You are generally right about English beer!