

[1959]

January 12, 1958

Dear Mike and Albert:

Enclosed find copy of a broadcast made over radio KPOL and KABC-TV, Channel 7, to which I referred earlier. Its quotes will interest and surprise you.

This morning I received a most cordial call from George Seaton. He asked if I approved Valentine Davies as his confidant. I said ok. He said Val was operated on this a.m. at Cedars for a minor skin cancer; he had been to see him; Val was not yet able to confer. He asked if I could hold off 2 or three days. I opined I could. ~~Th~~ He thanked me very warmly for my help, and said I'd hear from him. So it goes on that front.

Tonight at 8:30 the Academy Board meets in its first effort to rescind the rule. This is extremely secret, because if Seaton (who works like a dog for recission because he must) and his group fail, they hope to force the issue through a second time with better luck. All very complicated. Sounds like they have a faction going.

Carl Sandburg, who is celebrating some kind of anniversary year all over the country, is flying here next week (secretly, insofar as the present is concerned) to deliver a red hot TV show damning the blacklist.

Later comes the RR exposure (good-naturedly if the Academy rescinds, viciously if it doesn't)---followed by the triple employment announcement of the KBs (god and mike willing). If ~~the~~ Academy rescinds, we shall celebrate all this as a good-natured victory dance, with the winners generous. If the Academy does not---then they will catch more hell on radio, TV and the press than anyone could have imagined even 18 months ago. And we'll eventually win anyhow, and force a later recission from the Academy.

There is a curious current of excitement all through the town, as if this were the night or week before Waterloo. The Guild is lining up for the blacklisted. People feel a decision is afoot, and they begin to move, either as they always secretly wished to, or as opportunism directs. The old and bearded guerillas move out of the woods and onto the plains, and they are greeted by all who have lived cozily during the war with the ~~xxx~~ cry, "Hail! Welcome! We want to help you!"

Tomorrow's dispatch will arrive in God's time.

Salud!

DT