

L-68
Sageville
Rensselaer County Jail
Troy, New York
January 10, 1956

Dear Bob:

We read recently of brain-washings & pain barriers; the sensibility to pain of different individuals being variable, etc., & it passeth for current that the lower order of animals is endowed with such a nervous make-up such as to render them less sensible to pain. In the present case, we will by-pass Pavlov's dogs, & go to the frogs. (Note that this is a digression from my usual path). Frogs have the advantage of being a dime a dozen, & that is also the probable asking price of even Aristophanes "Frogs". I suppose the frog is selected, pinned down, stretched on a board for ganglion study, not only because the neural study is facile, but because he is one of these lower animals, incapable of pain, as we humans know pain. But what does the frog say? Who is there to speak for the frogs? It occurs to me that the following more or less reflects a "frog's eye view."

Today I was brought before the court here; notified of my right to have counsel; & when I stated that I had no funds, a counsel was appointed by the court, to appear with me when I am arraigned on this coming Friday the 13th. On the old Roman calendar, this was called the Ides of January. It is amusing to reflect, that when Rome was the greatest city on the face of the earth, that no act of city administration, however trivial & picayune, could be acted upon until all formalities had been complied with, & the multitudinous Roman officialdom had conducted their investigations, surveys, & reports. This method was adhered to, not only in the acts of public beneficence, but also in the squandering of public moneys & atrocious judgments.

Where were we? Oh yes, it seems it is illegal to arraign, try, & sentence a man in this state of criminal charges, unless he is represented by legal counsel. Of course, the law does not stipulate that his counsel shall be