

C O P Y

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Davenport State Infirmary
~~Fewkesbury, Mass.~~
Feb. 8, 1959

Dear Bob:

It has been a couple of months since my last writing. Since then I have received your holiday gift, for which, many thanks. Our Commonwealth provides tobacco & wages, (thirty cents a day), to its felons, but none to its state hospital inmates (working or otherwise). I would have been in a sad state without your gratuities. Possibly you may feel that you have encouraged my stay here, but the fact is, that I don't need any encouragement. The only damn way I can "get back" at our short-sighted society, is to deprive it of my energies & productiveness. I gather that our missile program & "moon shots" are somehow staggering along without my co-operation. Possibly you will ascribe this attitude to "institutionalization", but I for one, can see nothing incongruous, if a very large segment of our population should arrive at the conclusion that they have been instruments only in the production of "more & bigger", have ceased to exist as separate entities, & thru sheer egoism taken the necessary steps to gain admittance to some prison, poorhouse, or lunatic asylum.

Consider the literature on various subjects which always describe the criminal as "egocentric", the only child as "selfish", sic ego = self, the alcoholic's refusal to identify himself as a member of the community. Consider the reprehensible attitude of a man who dares not to join a labor union. All these conditions are an anathema to our present society.