19th of June, 1970

Dear George,

Sorry to have delayed this reply. It is difficult to write history when you are part of a frenzied effort to make it. I came to UCLA in order to have more time to write, read, think - and all I've done is engage in an effort of political action since my arrival. The xxx very first
formal meeting I attended was in the Chancellor's house in connection with the Angela Davis case. And now I am President of our Local Faculty Union.
My friends tell me that I delude myself if I suppose that my level of involvement is a function of external circumstance.

Anyway, I've often thought about those early days of the SDS, and even proposed to one friend of mine in the publishing business that a book be done on the very early days of formal, then informal, relationship to the LID.
The Odd Left meets the incipient New Left sort of thing. So I was delighted that someone is trying to get it all down for posterity.

I'm afraid I don't remember your name, but am sure I would recognize you if we met. I'm terrible on names; but very good on faces.

I was at the Port Huron conference and did lead an evening-long discussion. The sorts of things I said were eventually developed, and appear in a much more coherent form in the chapter of my book, The Radical Liberal, titled, "The Politics of Pseudo-Radicalism". I know that my xxxxxxx memory does not fail on this one because Steve xxx Max, who was also there, once remarked that the chapter was very reminiscent of that evening's discussion.

My memory of the Convention is spotty. I didn't even remember that Dick Flacks was there. I thought he got involved subsequently. I remember nothing of the debate concerning Jim Hawley. I have a vague memory of a rather glib talk that Harold Taylor xxx gave. I remember that Don Sleghman was there, but can only recall xxxxxx his talking about his recent exploits at the race tracks one socializing evening. I do however have a vivid memory of Mike (harrington) and Tom (hayden) having at it in the kitchen, next to large urns and dully chromium-coated pots. The issue was whether SDS should exclude Communists. xxx Mike took the position that it was tactically unwise to do so; Tom, that that position xxxxxx was symptomatic of all that was hateful about the Old Left and American Liberalism. I truly don't remember debates about the Cold War. Though I was never much of a Cold Warrior, I was never much of anything on matters pertaining to foreign policy until I got involved in the teach-ins. Mostly I sympathized with people like Tom, but retained a healthy respect for the intellectual toughness of people like Mike. (One ironical footnote - My local union signed Angela Davis ULP, then had a note sent to the xxx national AFT - which still excludes Communists - asking what they propose to do about it. No answer as yet. The irony is, of course, that the present leadership of the LID is heavy in the leadership structure of the AFT.) I'm certain, however, that on this

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