

Dec. 21, 1971

Dear Arthur,

I got your Christmas card today, and wanted to write and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year too. I feel somewhat relieved this evening, because I just got off in the mail to Columbia my book on "Sodomy and the Constitution". I am submitting it as a thesis for the LL.M. degree from Columbia. I did not have time to do as good a job on revising and completing it as I would do (and still plan to do) for publication, but at ~~KXX~~ least the footnotes are formally completed and a conclusion has been added at the end. I am curious to see what reaction it evokes from the law professor at Columbia who has agreed to read and evaluate it for purposes of the ~~KXX~~ LL.M.

I talked to Bill Kelley this morning and he has set up an appointment for me with Burton Joseph ~~XX~~ at Playboy Foundation. So we'll see what comes of that. I plan to be in Chicago from the afternoon of the 26th (Sunday) until Thursday A.M., Dec. 30th. Bill and I will be going to dinner together Sunday evening.

I don't know whether I told you that I have decided to take your sage advice and move from New Mexico. Several weeks ago, I ~~XXXX~~ made up my mind that I was miserable here and a fool for coming back to this place. It's a great place to live, and I like the University of New Mexico Law School more than any other ~~KXXM~~ school I've ever been in, but it just is not for me. So I began to put out feelers for a position elsewhere, limiting my inquiries to law schools in large metropolitan areas like New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle. So far I've received "interested" responses from Fordham in New York City, from Rutgers in Newark, from DePaul in Chicago, and from USC in Los Angeles. DePaul wants to talk to me about taking the deanship of the law school there. So I should have some profitable interviews ~~KXXEM~~ while I'm in Chicago. Will let you know how things develop. I am to the point of resigning from here and moving to San Francisco to practice law, if nothing turns up in the way of an academic position.

I just got back yesterday from a five-day trip to Los Angeles. I agreed to serve on the National Screening Committee for the Fulbright Scholarships (Western States division, for applications to France and Belgium). So they paid the expenses of the trip. Had a grand time in L.A.! It reconfirmed my conviction that it's stupid for me to remain in Albuquerque.

Again, best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Halter*

P.S. I'm having a conference tonight with a young lawyer (UCLA grad) just admitted to the NM bar this summer, who wants to level a constitutional attack on the New Mexico sodomy statute. He has a client-- a criminal defendant--in a heterosexual context! I am going to loan him a copy of my article (book! rather). He seems really gung ho, so more power to him!