8916 Cliffridge Ave.
La Jolla

Nov. 6 [1965]

Dear Jo,

I sent off a substantial letter to El Profesor Barker on Thursday. I'll be very much surprised if Johsn Hopkins decides against you, and I hope you'll find grad school more bearable than you are now inclined to foresee. As a matter of fact, one of the strongest characteristics of Hopkins is the degree of independent study, and the respect for privacy. I know one prof who left Hopkins because his charming but not especially intellectual wife couldn't stand the lack of social activity. I told him Knox faculty wives needed her, but he had reasons of his own not to apply.

I haven't any specific rejoinders to make to your comments on different styles of political activity. Local situations vary too much, and what people can best do with their given temperaments vary too much, for detailed ground rules to apply. It's too bad that we have a Preeident with the psychology of a huckster, and I am not at all surprised that that the anti-P. adm. is being developed in such a way as to prevent as far as possible any real organization by and within the poor classes themselves. Still it is important to remember that no society has ever flayed itself publicly for its own shortcomings in the way that American society does. I am now rereading with great delight, as ever, several Platonic dialogues whichI will be teaching x in the Humanities sequence next month. They are wonderful stimulants to the open, curious, tolerant mind--but they don't contain a word about the human treatment of human beings, all human beings, as such. That idea came from the O.T. prophets, but even in what we gloriously call the Judeo-Xian tradition, only in modern Scandinavia, England, x and the US has society as a whole accepted even a partial commitment in that direction.

Do you read People's World by any chance? They gave me a handsome review last week. Also, I can report that Ziggy was much touched by your remembering him. He positively flourishes in the California climate. Nippy and the girls send you best regards. I take it you will still be in SF in January?

Gabe Jackson

[Gabriel Jackson]