

Dear Bo,

Have your letter of 23 Feb with the disturbing news. I don't blame you; you did what looked best at the time.

Will make extreme effort to stonaway with coming circus. If this not successful will have a more conciliatory letter hand carried by Stoney to Finis. Bell also coming as you may know. Will brief Stoney ^{in outline} on plot situation within the Mission and reasons for cabbage possible disenchantment with white carabao. This will make sense to him because he is a great believer in the Moustache. He can be trusted, despite your misgivings. He just plays them very close to vest like you.

What I'm afraid of now is that new position Miller F. ^(with friends) wants established will appear to cabbage as plot fostered by W. Carabao ^(RP) in order build empire for latter. Will attempt make sure that cabbage asked who he wants before carabao's name mentioned. Would be a perfect play if cabbage would come back and say I don't need this thing but if you're going to force it on me then I want Moustache.

As for myself, it's up to the boys to vote to Bell, and possibly in advance to Finis, as to what they want. Some thing from our Viet brothers when Bell makes his country calls or whatever. I believe in

27 Feb 64

referendums and will abide by the results, whatever they may be.

Incidentally, I sent the letter to Len before I got yours. Also one to B. Burns, in answer to his, telling him I definitely intended to return.

As of this date, ^(RPS) no persona non grata cables received on carabao or other members on Bosa team.

As ever

(Bob Shaplen) R.

P.S. #1 Saw Bob S. who in town from N. York doing good missionary work around Pennsy Ave and fell at into.

P.S. #2 Suggest don't overplay hand as believe ^(RPS) carabao has good backing from Stoney & Bell.