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1984 - 07 - 26

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Beacon Press,
25 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts,
02108

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to express my admiration for your 1982 book, The Unfinished War by Walter H. Capps, which I have just read. It would seem from Capps's analysis that the argument over Vietnam has amounted to almost a second Civil War for the United States, but of course the struggle was much more internalized. Albert Schweitzer described the basic problem and its solution this way: "The ultimate solution can only be enforced for all time if a spiritual element is introduced --- (and) we turn away from the barbarian inhumanity we have embraced in our desire for power and return to the ideal of ethical culture ---"

I understand that your policy is not to publish fiction, but if you ever decide to move in that direction please let me know. I would be honoured to be published by a firm that brings out such fine books as The Unfinished War.

This is not really a query, but I might as well add a query about querying, so I will very briefly state that my novel, Conscience, is a kind of crucifixion story that deals with militarism and pacifism. In it, I strive for greater universality than has ever yet been attained in a literary work, trying to work out techniques for addressing virtually all men everywhere. Despite that aim, Christian imagery is used throughout the book -- but with a certain amount of subtlety. A Gandhian solution to the East-West problem emerges from a lengthy scene that is reminiscent of Plato's dialogues.

Thank you again for The Unfinished War.