

Dear Sol,

1/8/91

I have a friend whose son plans a book on the Malcolm X assassination. I think that as of that time you were still with the ADL. I'm sure it has files on Malcolm if not also on his assassination. I'm going to suggest that if he is interested he get in touch with you. He is David Gallen. His father is Richard. Dick was a publishing lawyer some years ago. He took I Am Curious Yellow to the Supreme Court, and won. He also published The autobiography of Malcolm X.

If David gets in touch with you and you can think of other ways of helping him, I'd appreciate it.

As you know, I remember the past rather well but not what I did a couple of days ago. I don't remember whether I sent you a copy of an analysis of a short part of Thomas Friedman's From Beirut to Jerusalem I wrote for a history professor friend. If I did not, the brief addition I did, not intending to write more, may not mean very much.

It may not be easy to explain and seem to make sense, but I believe that Friedman is genuine, really believes what he wrote, and yet is entirely dishonest in it. I don't know whether you or Frieda intend reading it or have. I would not if my friend Jerry had not brought it over for me to read because from the reviews and catching him on TV I got the impression that he'd angled his book with his preconceptions. Reading about 200 pages confirms this belief.

Jewish history includes not a few virulently anti-Semitic Jews, past and present. Without any pretense of amateur shrinkery I believe that Friedman is an anti-Semitic Jew and that he is also hooked on Muslims. Not just Arabs. He is anti-Christian Arabs in this writing, too. He is so much a Shiite fan that in 200 pages he has yet to indicate the possibility if not the probability that the Khoumenies were of any influence in Lebanon's tortures.

I'm past his accounts of the kamikazi attacks on the U.S. embassy and the Marine barracks and, I'm sure because he knows his American audience, he has not a word on the Shiite belief that those who kill themselves in such wholesale murder go straight to heaven. In so large a book, not a word of explanation of why men do such things?

I think I sent you the obit and the Post's story on the memorial meeting to honor my friend Sammie Abbott, of Syrian Arab parentage and a truly remarkable man. I've enclosed my letter to his widow. I mean every word of it. Sammie was one of a great number of people of great accomplishment who were also red-baited by the reactionaries. A story part of which I think you know may amuse you. I refer in the letter to Sammie's using German script to get the attention of the producer of what then was one of the top rated talk shows in NYC but on clear-channel radio, Long John Nebel's. That resulted in excellent sales for my first book and was my first such experience. I was able to make Nebel and his impartial panel, Victory Lasky and Bill Buckley's right-hand man, Weirin O'Daughtery, look ridiculous. Half-way through the show it broke for news, followed by the reading of telegrams. One of the first was from Sammie's son, George, then in medical school. That show attracted the interest of WNEW-TV. When I appeared for the taping they were running late so I sat in the sponsor's booth while another show was being taped. The man who Mohamed Rehti, a professional Arab. His line was there is no such thing as anti-Semitism. It is all anti-Gentile-ism. The audience was working-class but there were four well-dressed lawyers who took him on. I wondered what in the world they were doing in that audience and it dawned on me that they might be waiting for me. So, I was prepared and the first thing I did was show and talk about what no lawyer could possibly justify. I then let them try tolobber me, taking it politely and quietly until I felt they had, as Long John et al had, delivered the audience to me. Then I went after them. They persisted for more than a fruitless hour. When they gave up, when I'd really silenced them, the first person in the audience who stood up with a friendly question was the same George Abbott! Sammie had his troops lined up! Later I learned that the FBI was in on this effort to ruin me and my first book. I'm indebted to it for helping make it an overnight best-seller. Best,

*Handwritten signature*