

Dear Greg,

5/12/84

Because you appeared to feel it so strongly I read Richard Cummings's Evergreen piece on Al Lowenstein as soon as it came.

He does not call Al an agent but he does say, explicitly and implicitly, that Al "worked" for the CIA, i.e., was its employee, like Buckley was.

What it boils down to is that for some reason Cummings was out to get Al, was willing to go to enormous effort to do this, and condemns him for being a true-believing, practising liberal, like a wing of the CIA is liberal, and therefore Al is a CIA employee.

After reading this I am inclined to continue to believe that the best thing is to ignore this. It will get no real attention in Evergreen, witness the fact that the papers have done nothing with it; and trying to do something now will merely attract attention to the book.

Among those who matter this will not really hurt Al, whose record more than speaks for itself. This is not to say that it is not defamatory, for it is and is intended to be.

I am wondering why, why Cummings went to all this trouble, all this cost, for a book that I think has little prospect of returning its costs, in cash and time, to him.

What master or spirit or emotion may he serve.

Thanks,

I've annotated it if you ever want to discuss it.