

18 September 1970

Dear Mary,

Thank you so much for your letter of the 15th, the warning about the likelihood of a call from Lifton, and the illegible copy of Harold's short note to Hoch. How can one man do such violence to syntax, with unabating enthusiasm and unabashed prelixity?

I have not heard from Lifton but I suspect that the prolonged silence is making him uneasy and that there will soon be a letter or a call. When he called me in Dallas, in my hotel room, I did mention the thorough tour that Arch had given me that morning and that I was reading part of a volume of the chronologies just then. I did not intend to provoke his craving for the chronologies but I am not heartbroken to see Lifton hoist by his own petard of secrecy and refusal to share important material. I hope that Fred does not let Lifton cajole him back into "a good humor", since the only object is to exploit his good will without reciprocation.

Perhaps it is only natural that Lifton was so curious to hear your impression of me (although he surely knows me extremely well from our long correspondence); but I don't know why in the world it had to be placed on tape, word for word.

I do hope that things work out for Jimmy Lee and that your anxiety will now be over, and his future secure.

Enclosed is a snapshot of Allegra, your favorite cat on the Eastern seaboard, in her most beguiling pose. She joins me in sending love and kisses to all the Ferrells, including Mike.

Until the next "bulletin,"

Love,