

8 June 11.1

Dear Maggie,

Trillin's New Yorker piece came out yesterday. Beyond large, it is probably the most friendly piece since the Ramparts article last fall. There are certainly regrettable omissions — mainly on evidentiary questions — but at least it is no Scheer-type exercise in slander which, given the greater sophistication of New Yorker writing, could have been brutal.

I phoned Turk Thompson to thank him for his generous remarks about me, and he raised the subject of Random House. You know that I would not have violated my promise to you for any reason. I did not. But Turk knew about it already. Because Random House is to distribute his book (under an old arrangement with Geis, which RH is terminating but after Turk's book), Geis has kept in touch with the situation, concerned about discrimination in RH's distribution of a Geis book vs a Geis book in the same field. In fact, Turk has known about it for some time.

I am explaining this so that you will understand that I respected my promise not to mention RH's inexcusable renegeing on a commitment that was so

promising and important for WR criticism  
in general, and for your monumental  
work in particular.

You must think me a paragon of  
ingratitude and discourtesy — I have  
never thanked you for the tapes. The  
reason is — they have never arrived.  
I've been hesitant to mention this,  
for if I did I was certain to put  
my big foot in my mouth and pound  
plaintive. But I was nagged by the  
thought that you would assume that  
I had received the tapes and failed  
to acknowledge gratitude. Well —  
I probably have managed to be  
tootless — But I know you will,  
as always, understand, with your  
warmth and intuition, even if I  
put it clumsily.

All my love, dear — I was truly  
anguished by your news, but very  
proud of the courage and determination  
with which you took this blow.

Sylvia