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WINFIELD AVENUE  
HARRISON, N. Y.

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Dear Sylvia,

I find your letters most impressive, and feel properly rebuked--but enlightend in the best sense--since on the basis of Penn Jones' evidence, and also his word, and also Garrison's interview in Playboy--which still had the merit of bringing certain main facts about the CIA and the Warren commission before a broad popular audience--I somehow fell for him. Though with reservations about his evidence to date, I felt he must have the real stuff in the background. (and why the massive attack by NBC, CBS)

No possibility of that? and I know that you have not favored Penn Jones' books which I find very interesting indeed, and which have just been picked up by a publisher named like CID or something, which now, after your letters, gives me to think. Are they trying to frame him, too?

Arnoni and I had a terrible misunderstanding about reviewing your book--which on the personal side has now been cleared up, thank god, since I admire him. I was stating my doubts as to my ~~own~~ own qualifications to review such a central document, and asking him if you knew & agreed that I could do it....He interpreted this as a denial of his request....I still think I am not all that qualified, I think that Connor Cruise's name will rate you more attention, even while, on other grounds, I have certain doubts about Connor Cruise--but on the whole I guess he is ok.

He wrote me twice to defend the New York Review of Books, which on the literary side, is dominated by cold-War Liberals, who chose, for example Meyer Schapiro to ~~ax~~ axe the Alger Hiss book....He did not ask me, nor even appear to know, when I resigned from Ramparts and he took my place, he did not ask why.....I wrote a letter to him on both counts and then filed it, and he may be right in his views, I just don't know.

over:

Now I am going to ask you for a favor: I want an inscribed copy of your book from you, in return, I will send you 2-3-4 books of mine, inscribed: ok? I was dying to read that book, also dying to review it, and that was why I had to make my reservations clear to Arnoni!

But I have just written him a long essay on the Year of Revelations, the Ramparts, NY Times revelations on the Cia, and then the Nation essay of Sept 11th, which I thought was beautiful, and now in this issue of the New Republic, incredibly, material on the large sums of money USIS plus CIA is handing out to American authors and publishers! I have to rush Arnoni a footnote on this last--and what change does any of this effect on the American intellectuals who don't want to know about it, and do not read the books & articles that deal with it? I can see no change at all....Irving Howe reviews James' American scene with the same old cliches that went on and on before I showed them up...This is a foul book, anti-semitic to the core, and always praised by the Jewish wing of the James Cult,--and as it struck me now, is there any other wing--except me?

Well one of us will have to atone for the mass of unbelievers....The British critics have picked up the James book quite heavily; and now a Cornell professor, ~~named Hall~~ named Hall, has written a definitive essay, to me, accepting all the book's premises while scourging my Marxist and Freudian approach: thus the way of progress... But I start with your book, end with mine, naturally; your letters are most impressive; I hope you will grant my favor above because I do have such admiration for you, and from what Arnoni tells me about the book. Do you know what Connor has said about it? It is still good to have do the book....IF.....he does it right.

My sincere compliments!

Did NY Review publish your letter? will Playboy publish; I am really curious. And what does Garrison say to you? Is he being picked to mess up the Critics, as you almost imply, though I think not, somehow.