

Dear Harold,

August 13, 1972

This is a reply to your letters of 7/3, 7/7, and 7/21 to which I have not had the time to reply until now.

To your claims of deception and lack of integrity on my part I repeat that I ordered the documents I sent Wecht from the Archives, not absolutely sure when I ordered them what they were. They are item 52 on page 28 of the Archives list which I was sent, despite your implication that I got that list from you. You of all people, with your knowledge of the archives, have no excuse for having even implied that the only place I could have gotten it was from you. So, I took a document in the public domain and sent it to Cyril Wecht, who certainly had need of it—a document I had to practically stumble on given how inactive I now am in the case.

I had thought that this document was unavailable publicly as had others based on your statement that you had "gotten it from the Secret Service." Never once had you told me that it was in the archives when I was at your place visiting and we discussed it. Ironically, I came upon it only because the Archives discriminated against you and practically advertised it. You asked for a copy of the cover letter—there was none. Enclosed is a carbon of my letter to the Archives of March 11 with which I ordered it—return it after you have seen it.

So, I reject your charges against me. I resent them given our long friendship. You have made charge after charge by bending the facts or ignoring alternative explanations. I somehow figured that a long friendship was good for more than just a matter of reasonable doubt. A thousand charges, words, or pages of letters cannot change the fact that you have relentlessly ignored my explanations and made serious charges about my conduct which are utterly without foundation. I see nothing to indicate that I am "immature, immoral, arrogant, unethical," or any of the other things you have said of me. I am saddened that you make such charges and lay waste to a long friendship, but I will hear no more of this.

I reject your request to return to you documents on LHC as an agent which Hal Verb and I got from the archives. I did that work out of interest and ordered it with my own money. I was glad to share all of it with you, as I have shared everything I have dug up. But it is not your property. I did not need you to tell me to read through the GA files since that was one of the reasons I was going to the archives. But I was glad to do it and to send you the stuff. Now this then becomes your exclusive property I don't know. Ironically, I don't know where some of that stuff is and was thinking a few months ago of writing you for copies. Lifton and others have been over those files with a fine tooth comb and have offered for sale copies of the files, so any hard-working archives researcher now has them. I'm sure the same goes for the Burkley document.

As I indicated in my last letter, I am sorry to see things go like this. I do not intend to write again. Please give my regards to Lil and return the carbon after you have seen it. Best of luck in the coming years.

PS: There is a certain irony to your accusing Weacht, myself, Jerry, Sylvia, and others of bad judgment in saying that Weacht should see the stuff in the archives. Back at the time of the Shaw trial you were enraged when Vince and I suggested that the government might be laying a trap with the Punal Review and that it was fool-hardy to go after the X-rays and photos. You never forgave Vince for that and mentioned it in letters to me for years. Now you are saying that we can learn nothing and there are dangers. Back then you were intent on criticising others for that view, and then kept pointing to the result as proof of your views. In fact, you were angry only that Vince botched it up and that Garrison didn't follow through so that we never got to see the stuff...In other words, that Weacht, among others, didn't get to examine it. Now, as though you had never held that view, it is all wrong and there is danger. This is a 180 degree reversal, not bad in and of itself, but one which you do not acknowledge.

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