

9/3/71

Dear Sylvia,

I delayed writing today until the mail came in the hopes that I might have some news from the publisher to report. No luck in that regard. However, I was quite happy to find in today's mail the copy of Accessories you sent. I can't tell you how much I appreciate it. Already I've read over some parts which were hazy in my mind, ~~XXXX~~ having read them first long ago. It is an incredible piece of work.

I'd be most anxious to have a copy of the letter sent by Belin to Kaye Northcott. He's not yet responded to my latest letters. What really interests me from what you quoted of Belin's letter is the fact that he is keeping his co-accessories filled in. I wish there were some way of knowing whether or not he's contacted Specter about me. Or, if he did, whether or not Specter would even acknowledge that he knows me. Knowing Specter, I'm sure he would not confide to Belin his true feelings toward me. From what I've learned, Specter feeds to his friends and family just what he feeds the press, he is that tight. As for his attitude for me, I personally think it is fear, cloaked in contempt and, perhaps, hate. At the University when I questioned him, he really acted in total contempt toward me, in ways even the transcript cannot reveal. However, from our private conversation, he knows that I know things (thanks to Harold) that he definitely does not want known, and I think because of that he fears me.

In line with all of this, I have a secret craving to learn just what went on when Fishe contacted the other Panel members about me. What happened with Carnes is my own interpretation, but I think old Fisher must have put a real fear of God into him.

Friends of the editor at Little Brown who is considering my book say that no response after all this time is a good sign, indicating very serious consideration. The editor, Harry Sions, implied this in his letter. Also, Harold told me Sions read Whitewash in '65 and wanted to publish it but Little Brown wouldn't permit it. That, of course, is Harold's version.

Re Wecht: I hadn't really given thought to having Dr. Wecht read the ms, although I have no objections to it. He has expressed interest in the book throughout our correspondence. As for his approaching Marshall, I anticipate the inevitable negative response. You surely must know that Marshall is the government's rubber stamp, a loyal whore. The only way I can see any competent non-gov't person getting to see that material is through some sort of court order. Is Wecht ready for court action? I hope I'm wrong, but when I look at the phenomenal reluctance to let qualified people see the pix and X-rays, when I look at the raw power exercised by this administration and its utter contempt for the law, I am not hopeful.

Monday I'll be moving to school. My new address will be:

Howard Roffman  
357 Craig, U. of P.  
37th and Spruce Sts.  
Phila., Pa. 19104

Please address your correspondence to this address now. In a little while I'll have address labels for you to use, which should be more convenient for you.

Nothing else to report. Again, a million thanks for the book.

Best wishes,

*Howard*