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Dear Tom,

I received your letter of May 17.

In your letter, you thanked me for my "prompt response" and noted that "such speed and courtesy is unusual in my experience".

The reason I answered so quickly ~~was~~ was that I was thoroughly aghast at the idea that the type of hypothesis (to put it politely)-~~was~~ that was implicit in your letter would start making the rounds.

Implicit in your letter of 5/10/75 was the notion that I had access to classified documents, and had accidentally published such a page from such a document back in 1968---then quickly issued an ~~errata~~ sheet to hide that fact.

What further bothered me was the considerable length to which you had gone to "build a case", so to speak. And by the last paragraph of your May 10 letter, you seemed to be drooling with the scent of victory, as ~~you~~ you moved in to "corner" me, quoting line after line out of context, and pointing out that none of this could possibly be related to the employment of the Commission.

I am sure you have read the Exec. Sessions with considerable care, if the extent of your correspondence with the archives is any indication of your interest. That being the case, what intrigues me is that a page which you surely ~~must~~ must have read ---when read in context---made absolutely no impression on you. But when read out of context, every sentence jumped out at you, and ~~you~~ ~~excited~~ excited your suspicions to such an extent that it caused you to create this really incredible hypothesis.

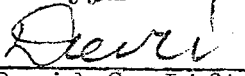
Now what concerns me is not the fact that there is a pagination error here. What concerns me is the incredible hypothesis you were so quick to construct, based on that error.

It is not ~~unusual~~ usual for me to deal with a person who is so completely suspicious of my motives, and it genuinely puzzles me as to why someone should behave in that manner towards me.

That is why I ended my letter with a question, part of which I will quote again, because I would really like to know your answer to it:

"W...would you mind sharing with me your thoughts on...why you would impute the behavior you apparently would, to me?"

Sincerely ~~xxx~~


David S. Lifton