

(Not sent?)

20 October 1975

Dear Thomas,

I am displeased with your letter of the 11th. You have voiced harsh views of people I like - Tink Thompson, Alasdair Lowenstein, and now Senator Schweiker. I like them despite the fact that they are not made in my exact image. But apparently even our long friendship does not grant me immunity from the consequences of not being made in your exact image.

I have felt no need for lectures, persons, or corrections for my own good. If I felt such a need, I would merely resume correspondence with Harold Weisberg.

I feel no obligation to conform in every last detail to the Doctrine-According-To-Stamm, or according to anyone else. But I draw some comfort from the fact that you do not receive your disapproval and lessons for me and other critics from the middle-class but also take issue with Workers World (cf. your letter to Comrade Marcy). Is no one safe??

In fact, when I think about, I recall no person and no work on which you have seen fit to place your stamp of approval. No one ever really measures up. Some you dismiss a priori (the "political animals"), others you condescend to educate and convert.

I do not feel obliged to agree with you on the 3, 4, or 5 propositions you set forth. I am not on trial and I may as well tell you that no part of your analyses of Oswald's political line in your letters to Florence or anyone else has influenced me in the least.

Please do not place on me the responsibility for the vindication or non-vindication of your 12 years of work.

And if you wish to spare me pain, you should not have written such a damned patronizing and self-righteous missive as you sent me, which did give me pain and a sense of betrayal which

I may or may not suffer at the hands of Schwicker. I will react with disillusion as soon as he gives me reason to do so, but not when you give me your infallible signals.

As to Lowenstein, I like him and I trust him, despite the fact that he is not perfect and that he often says things with which I strongly disagree.

I have no objections to your being a Doubting Thomas, provided that once in a while you are also capable of Doubting Thomas (Himself).

Sylvia