

# THE MINORITY OF ONE

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Dear Ray:

I have been writing you a letter for these past two weeks or so. No, it was not going to be a lengthy affair, but just the same it was taking much time, for I had intended it to be very considered writing. I never got around to completing and sending it off, because things have lately been especially hectic for me. The letter concerned your differences with Thompson, and I intended to mail him a copy. Without now trying to achieve the precision I had aspired to, let me say that I sympathize with your sense of injury in connection with Thompson's book and its coverage in the Saturday Evening Post. While I believe the charge of plagiarism to be unsubstantiated (you don't plagiarize by acknowledging a source, even if inadequately), I also believe that the significance at least one discovery of yours plays in Thompson's study warrants a much more prominent acknowledgment than in a footnote reference. Having only yesterday called Thompson, I conveyed to him this opinion.

I am telling you this, because I appreciate that if I had finished and mailed you my letter, I might now be in a better position from which to discuss with you another affair.

I am, of course, referring to the idea, conveyed to me by Vince in your and his own name, of Thompson being a CIA agent. I have listened to Vince carefully, and, for the first time ever, taken precise notes of our conversation to be able to refer back to them upon re-thinking the matter.

In my considered judgment, the whole structure of the "evidence" involved is classically psychological, bespeaking Thompson's pursuits in no way whatsoever, but rather reflecting the frame of mind of whomever begot the suspicion and proceeded to add "convincing" details and deductions.

I wish to urge you to make a special effort to see through the fallacy involved. I urge you to do this out of respect for both your intellect and integrity. Because I have such respect, it hurts me to consider that the quality of your thinking may deteriorate more than passingly.

I shall not go into Vince's deductions, all of which--to my mind--have absolutely nothing to do with objective and external evidence, but are such reflections of his own psychology as are related to its past manifestations--true to his personality, but untrue to subject matter. But it would be sad if his catalytic psychological needs were allowed to feed such bitterness in you as may have accumulated against Thompson. However injured you may consider yourself to be, and whatever the degree of justification in your feeling so, not one thread is thereby spun between Thompson and the CIA.

I am certain that you are a man who wants to be fair, even to a personal enemy (this does not imply your being Thompson's enemy, which I hope you are not). This is why I felt called upon to appeal to that side in you for a more conscious assertion in this particular instance.

With warm regards to you and Letha,

Sincerely,

M. S. Arnoni

MSA:mw