

5/10/57

Mr. Charles Roberts
New York

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Your letter of May 8 is not responsive to mine of the fourth.

You seem to address yourself to a very narrow misinterpretation of what I asked. The question is not simply of the past, for it is in the present that your book and you are being promoted. Nor is it only a matter of having a financial subsidy.

Should you address this, I am safe from your unrelieved record in promoting you and/or the role in which you have cast yourself or been cast will require insult. Do try and be more original. Certainly you should be capable of it, from the pretence of your book if not your position.

For the record I note your nasty inference, more subtle than your plea for falsehood, that WHITMAN came from "sources" other than myself and that it has "egregious misjudgements". You had an opportunity in your book to prove the latter and you made no attempt to, for you cannot. You have a standing opportunity to do it to my face and you do not. For this I add the challenge that you stipulate that even your McCarthyite mine can twist into a justification for the words "I'm the same sources who led you into such egregious misjudgements in Whitman".

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg