8/7/67

Dear Bob,

When you show me a letter chiding Lane for his lack of scruple and general crookedness or the doctrinal flaw in what I said in WHITEWASH II I ll accept your comment on "critics knocking each other." I went after Lane not on his plagiarisms, in his writing and in his speaking, not on the other plain crooked things he has done, but on the doctrinal flaw of his work. I will not be hoist on his petard and I will not allow what I am fighting for to be made into an American Reichstag Fire or a Mark-Lane-Made-In-American Reichstag Fire just formxthe sake of quiet. I tolerate the other things, save where he has forced my hand.

He is, to me, the walking embodiement of the legal maxim, a stiff prick has no conscience. That I am silent about. Not the error of his writing and his speaking.

For what he has done that is worthwhile, I defend him and I have defended him, at my own expense and without thanks or gratitude. His response was to steal more.

The only critic I know who does not back Garrison is Sylvia. I disagree with her but I have no doubt of her sincerity and conviction. When she raised the question in a letter I got today I took time out for a four single-spaced-page reply, trying to reason with and persaude her. But I have no less respect and liking for her. It is not the same and the genuine evil Mark believes is the right way to live. Are the rest of us, especially his victims, to be satisfied because he just steals and makes it difficult to get to the root in order to satisfy his ignorance or lust for vengeance? The crook never proclaims his theft. Must his victims acquiesce?

There is more I must tell you about the Magic tape. Your hands must be clean, not sweaty. It takes and hold fingerprints. It does not come off sfot-finished paper-it tears it. Burnish it in, especially where it laps. Use either a bought burnisher, which I've not yet gotten, or some hard object, like a paper opener. Examine the application in slanting, not too bright light. Then it will not show before the offset camera.

There are other things in the Epilogie to WWII I presume you would not use. It is too long for a magazine piece. If you decide you want to use excerpts in the future, youx need not ask.

One more thing on the tape: If you replace a single word or anything short, use a longer piece of tape, hold the ends, and let it down slowly. You must see what you are doing and it tends to develop static electricity and grab. You'll find the half-inch more convenient, especially in the largest and heaviest dispenser. Also, it is less costly in the 4" reel. If it stands for a while, do not use the exposed piece for this purpose: it holds and shows dust.

Best regards,

H