

Rt. 8, Frederick, 21701

11/1/69

Dear Jay,

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of the Butler swill. I had heard of it and have asked friends in California to learn for me whether it is actionable under California law. This is the grossest and most deliberate misrepresentation, in which Butler has become professionally competent. He is a reforming extremist, male-model-turned-Bircher, who abandoned that fringe when he realized there was no money there. He is firmly latched to the radical-right test and has milked the assassination as no one else has been able to, as I will sometimes tell you if you are interested. He is, in fact, part of the story, for in his lack of scruple and commercially-motivated self-aggrandizement he was the indispensable ingredient in giving Oswald the false complexion of a "red".

I hadn't been to bed the morning I taped the Lyne Show with him, having done an all-night call-in show, beginning after a lengthy interview. I have never been given the promised unedited and edited tapes, but I did have someone with me. He freely admitted he was lying, completely without embarrassment. He was no more troubled when forced to acknowledge he was manufacturing. He is that kind of man. What he complains he couldn't question me about is fiction, about which it is not easy to question. The firing to which he refers (blackmailed out of Marshall by Bill anti-Semites, as one of your predecessors knew so well and tried, unsuccessfully to do something about) was part of a pogrom. As I recall it, the evil genius was an anti-Semite named Barger. This misuse of the "bought forged letters" bit is more grievous, for when he pulled that one he was clobbered with what really happened, that Martin Dies had paid for the forgeries and the forger had gotten two years, whereas the grand jury, despite considerable pressure, refused to indict me, especially since I had committed no crime.

Butler is a man of genuine, dedicated evil, as unprincipled as possible, pretending the loftiest belief, with no scruples to impede his milking of the frightened moneyed. Your presumption is correct. Frawley is his angel in LA, as Ochsner is in New Orleans. He promotes and provokes trouble, has written a book, in fact, saying this is his "profession". He is active in YAF and is organizing rightwingers on the campus to oppose those he considers left, which is almost everyone else. There seems to have been a split within this minute fragment, between those opposed to any violence and those who apparently realize that small as they are they can attract no attention any other way. He has given them their name, "squares". If you see anything else about him, whether or not it refers to me, I'd appreciate a copy, because aside from the fact that he is a fascist, enough to interest me, he assumes more and more possible significance in one aspect of the work I'm doing. Meanwhile, if there is libel here and I can get a lawyer, I'll be happy to include the man in ultimate responsibility, Frawley, who has paid for too much of this hate preaching already.

I know Fensterwald. He is sincere and I believe engaged in a futility. I would not join his group because of some of his directors, with whom I will have no conscious association. However, I like him personally. He was formerly counsel for Senator (Missouri) Long's subcommittee that investigated wiretapping and produced the Freedom of Information Act. If there is anything else you'd like to know, ask.

When you are again in touch with the Halt, County men, please see if you can get my tape back and anything they may have learned of the voice. Thanks and best,