

Dear Roger,

Feinman

5/16/93

Aside from being frail from a number of medical problems of which you may remember some and from the accumulation of many years I have sleep apnea. It is an illness manifested by ^{among others,} periods of nonbreathing while asleep. I've had impressive and exhaustive tests at two hospitals, the last at the Johns Hopkins sleep-disturbance center. The printouts included each and every breath and each missed one and the duration of each of the many periods of non-breathing. None of the known means of curing or controlling it are safe for me. I've been experimenting in an effort to learn how I may get more sleep. The quality of the interrupted sleep is not nearly as good as uninterrupted sleep. I think I have had some success with these experiments. One thing is certain, although it is often interrupted, by the sleep apnea itself and by the prostate problem on which my next consultation and examination and testing at Hopkins ~~is~~ the end of this month, I am able to spend more time abed and from keeping records know that I am now getting at least an hour more sack time, not infrequently two hours more than when I was writing Never Again!, the tentative ~~title~~ title, with a descriptive subtitle, of the new book.

Possibly from a long lifetime of early rising, I am wide awake much too early. While writing the book it was sometimes before midnight, more often not long after it, and rarely was it later than 1 a.m. When I am wide awake that early, the only ways I can get more rest is by napping after arising and by retiring earlier. Most of the time I cannot nap before daylight and some activity and often then the napping is impossible or short and of poor quality. The most effective means I have found of coping with this is to retire early.

I have also learned that because this malady causes less oxygen, when I am awakened I do better to stay awake, breathing normally, and thus get the benefit of a bit more oxygen. This means that if my sleep period is of say seven hours, my actual sleep is perhaps five. Most nights I am not able to do this well.

If there is an interruption as I am about to retire, more when it is a phone call from one with whom I enjoy talking, like you, and even more if we discuss what is of interest to me, it means that I am too wide awake and my mind is too active to be able to doze off.

Last night I was an hour later trying to get to sleep and my mind kept me from falling asleep for quite some time.

The night before I was asleep when you called and the night before that Jerry called me for the first time in years just as I was retiring. We chatted briefly, he asked if he could call back the next day, earlier, and he hasn't.

One of the means of coping with sleep apnea is to wear a mask connected to a machine that provides room air under pressure, the pressure variable and the required amount determined by the kinds of tests I had. ^{twice unsuccessful} My use of that device coincides with the advent of chronic bronchitis, whether or not it caused it, and I have this additional breathing problem now. So, while I am always glad to talk to you, I hope you can find it possible to call

earlier so it will be as little an interruption in my already too little sleep in the convoluted life I lead, not by choice, *as is possible.*

I write also to try to get you to do a bit of self-examination.

This is because I believe your more than merely justified detestation of what that monster Lifton is now up to has taken control of you.

You will be much less effective in anything you do unless you can get your normal controls back.

You cannot possibly address all the lies and distortions and misrepresentations and other for him typical dishonesties of his 34 single-spaced pages. So, do not try to, Instead, please ask yourself if you will not be more effective if you do get control and pick out three or four of the many openings he provide/and address them strongly, effectively, definitively, and show how that is true of all he says.

I think the most effective point you can make is the one represented by the note you made at the end of his diatribe: all that viciousness without once addressing in any meaningful way the specifics of your criticism of his book.

Repeat that save for his theory and the interviews he made in the course of trying to breathe life into what he knew was a corpse before he started, there is nothing in his book that he rewrote to create the fiction, that was not published years before he started staking out his phony claim to own the subject of the JFK assassination.

I think also that for the audience he addressed it will be effective to separate him and them by noting that unlike them he commercialized it. And continues to after getting and pissing away a small fortune not a penny of which came to him honestly. He then has to have acquired another tidy sum fr^om the three republications. My copy of the last of them, the Carroll & Graf quality paperback, is the tenth printing. Whether there have been any since then I do not know.

Of the many extremes of his distortions and misrepresentations by the misuse of words one of the more effective is his phony claim ~~in~~ ^{11/23/63} of what amounts to his claim to have been the first to use three quotes from the Perry/Clark press ~~in~~ conference. Few things were immediately reported more extensively. The essence was in the bulldag editions of the Post and the Times that I have. Every paper in the world, all the radio and TV stations, ~~carried~~ carried it. So after all these years he stakes ~~me~~ out a phony claim that is actually limited to the utterly irrelevant, direct quotation of the transcript of what was fully enough reported contemporaneously. This is intellectual bankruptcy and it is mendacity.

You can use this effectively with Specter representing all those he now claims were honorable men, the pretense that what Perry actually said was not available to the WC.

This neatly coincides with Lifton's treatment of the anterior neck wound and that coincides with he failure to use my short-collared picture when he asked for and I gave him a print...Now for the morning paper! Best,

Harold