

12/29/74

Dear Henry Durkin,

When I worked on a morning newspaper during what used to be called The Great Depression I ate and drank (the latter to excess) in a fine Greek restaurant run by a fine Greek patriot and I ran a tab that I settled with each paycheck. I took it to Tom as soon as I got it, he took what was coming to me and gave me the little that remained.

Once Tom, who worked the night shift (meaning all night), got sick, and a friend or relative unknown to me took his place. He did not like the way I signed the check, so he insisted that I cross that out and sign it so he could read it.

Under protest, and with ample warning, I did. The check bounced, of course. So I have had an experience with banks and signatures that, would I not have taken your word anyway, would have been persuasive.

However, you display the insensitivity of the self-righteous, all-knowing in believing that I wrote you in anger ("I can understand your anger about having been 'ripped off'...") I was needling you. If it was too obscure, believe me I was not angry. I did not really believe that you would deliberately send me a bad check. From what I have seen of your thinking, I had no trouble believing it extended to your bookkeeping.

and "outrage at an apparent rubber check.")

However, let us go back to your propaganda in what calls itself The New Guard but is neither "new" nor a "guard."

You then had no concern with fact or truth. You had an ax to grind and if it meant chopping up the truth and butchering fact to the end that you could believe the dishonesty you put on paper and published, why let honesty get in the way?

You had belief; that was more than enough for you.

There need be no fidelity in your writing if it said what you wanted to say. And what you did say was no more than propaganda.

You took much of my time for no reason at all. You paid no attention. And I did tell you the truth.

This waste of time was more abusive than a bad check no matter how innocently it was not a good check.

The problem with ~~men~~ men like you who hew a line regardless is that you contort everything to fit the preconception. What the Warren Commission did.

Well, if Martin Dies went to his just reward, pity him.

And if your boy Nixon who was so faithfully served by so many of your fellow believers, felons charged and uncharged, ever goes to his earned one, Lucifer will be earning time and a half.

~~Handwritten note: I really was hoping to prod you into meditating the difference between talk and deed.~~

God save the country! I don't think that what has been done to it can be undone by any non-coelestial power.

You kid yourself, young Mr. McKinley. As when you close, "Conservatives like to save money." When you put on a show with a printed "Speed Message" - two-color yet - where the kind of cheap paper I use would suffice?

Not without hope,