10/5/89

Dear Gary,

I'm not off on a lifton kick, but by coincidence, the first thing I came across in consolidating the files this a.m. is my copy of CD354, in my old files, where I had my notes on my WC summaries.

My point here is to illustrate how utterly ridiculous his claims are, in this case that you "stole" Powell from him. Before I knew either of yout I had this material and forgot it. The reason, my interest in the man on the first floor. I had this filed under Pierce Allmen. It was in searching for the information on my interest that I got the report mentioning Powell getting trapped in the bldg.

On had to know nothing of Powell's existence to learn of it for the documents on Allman lead to him.

In this case ,y file is so old they were even using a different kid and size of peper in xeroxing then.

It now comes bask to me that I probably have more in a later and ifffferent file, dating to the end of 1966 or early 1967, on Manchester. I know I have more on the incident there, for I got in touch with Robert MacNeil, then with NBC, and have a statement from him prepared while he was on the boat going from New York to his new job with BBC, in England.

I don't recall, if I even knew, how you came upon Powell. But this is how I did, in tracing out one of my early interests, the man in the doorway. How early you can tell from the fact that WWII was written before any other books but Epstein's were out.

Now if I wanted to make nasty insuations, and I do not, I could pull a Lifton and say that because at that early dateI sent a copy of the ms of WWII to Calif for Maggie's and Bill's criticial comments, those people out there got a lead on my interest in the man in the doorway and in doing their own tracing would have automatically come accross Powell. I do not for one minute think this happened. But it is more reasonable suspicion that Lifton's.

Incidently, does this not also address whether or not I was trying to steal from Maggie's book, which I have yet to see? I sent her a copy of the ms of WWII before the winter of 1966. I could get the exact date, but it is not material. Some way to steal, huh?

This is for your information only. No copies to anyone.

Sincerely,