6/14/69

Dear Gary,

Your letter of 12 arrived just as I had finished reading COUP (I disagree with your opinion that it is in fine shape and wish I had the time to give that part the attention it could use), in between, so I answer immediately. We must guard against two things, most just the waste of time. The other is against formation of a mutual-admiration society.

I really had no idea Maggie and Bill were so two-faced. It think that what your letter does is require that I make a record, really another waste of time, for with all those people out there acting that way, God knows what can eventuate.

There never was any doubt about the reason I first went to California, as Lil will never forget because of the physical suffering it caused her, nor of the personal sacrifices for both of us involved, nor the great cost in a number of ways. Much of it is on paper, and when you are here, for your own satisfaction and as a mean of measuring the integrity of those with whom you are involved or who are quoted to you. Hal, for example, knows about it. The dates alone should tell you all you need know. Publication date of WWII was 12/2/66. I delayed public use of it until 12/7, on the Jack McKinney show, but had expected to use some of its content on a confrontation between me alone of the critics and not fewer than four of the Commission lawyers in a "Majority Report" Metromedia Show. We were to have gotten together in their offices the night of 12/5, and I alone showed up, having a long meeting with Mel Baily, Paul Noble and a vice-president-in-charge of something. We then worked out a new formula, me against Nizer and whoever of the Commission lawyers would appear with him as champion, but at least one, as a symbol. He had me tossed off after what I did to him on WOR. So, I didn't use the contents at a 12/6 taping. After the 12/7 McKinney show, beginning 2 a.m., I drove home, worked that day and the next getting ready for the trip, left early morning of the 10th for Chicago, Madison, Chicago, Milwaukee, thence to SF, using the transcontinental trip for the stopoffs. Liebeler was supposed to have met me in NY, Chi., SF and LA. He didn't show in NY, had the message in Chi he should read my second book before he met me (WBE, airmailed one immediately). In SF he sent a tape instead. Hal was in the studio and knows I tore it apart in minutes. I turned down the Lomax show, as Bill and all the others know, in order to face Liebeler on it. One of those characters must have a tape of it (I do not) and this is clear in the very first words. Those intellectuals and personal cowards have no concept of the dramatic, and there was a dramatic impact I think most viewers will remember, when he asked me "what difference does it make/" and I gave him proper response, got up, walked out and took the sympathies and the applause of the audience with me. You will notice Lomax never invited me back. Now, with all those copies of WWII to send out, I left this to Lil, and she tore her hand terribly, wore out all the gloves she had, etc. I was off when it served no purpose to sell the book because it was not on sale, simply to keep this promise to Bill and Maggie. They both called me together, in October or November, and begged me to go there (never offering to pay the cost), and I kept writing them things to do, challenges to issue for me until I got there, etc. If nothing else, the timing shows this trip could not have been for anything in my interest for it was against it, with the book to get out so it could be sold. That was very costly. Hal had asked me to go to SF, after the experience of what I accomplished on one Dolan Show by phone and unprepared (And I have Dolan's letter saying he never had such a guest or show), and he said the CCI would pay the expenses. When I got there I learned it was not the CCI before which I was to speak but the Militant Forum, and I did, with Keating ahead of me.

Before, after and since the meeting I took some pretty tough baiting for that, but I kept my word. And to date, of fare alone, I doubt if I have gotten a third of that back, no fee, etc. Hal knew I was using that for the purpose of taking after Liebeler for the LA people. It is in theletters, all discussed in terms of costs that would have to be met. Incidently, that was the most successful Forum meeting ever held. They charged an admission, sold books, but I got not a cent toward my expenses, then or since.

Now, On Lillian and her maps: Totally false, if she said it, and I have the files to show you. What I sent her was the Dealey Plaza utilities blueprints, before and after construction of the plaza. Al Chapman got them for me. She never ackowledged receipt, never answered my request that she let me know she got them, and a long time later, perhaps not in response for the first request for them, finally returned them.

On Maggie and my stealing what she had in her book: I have never seen it nor asked to see it, but I did, in writing, offer my help in getting it published, offering the art work, etc., all before I met her. Rather is the contrary true, for again before I had ever met any of them I sent her w copy of the ms of WWII for her and Bill to read for such knowledge as it could give them and for such suggestions as they could give me. They took much longer than we had and they were supposed to, made no suggestions, merely praised it/me or both. I have the letters. Now, this was my second book. I took PM and the documents to O in NO out there on my next trip and gave them to her to copy. She didn t even bother! I forgot to give Paul PM, but he will confirm that he got the appendix to O in NO. You tell me what I was going to get form her book. I left the 26 volumes before the others were through them. What else did she have access to? I turned witnesses over to them, etc., and have the tapes to prove that. That is really outrageous, if she did say it. You can see my written offers to work for her/them free at the Archives, my sending her what I knew she could use in her book, etc., and in the entire file you will find not one such thing from her. Bear in mind she had the ms of WWII and, if she had anything that could help, and she knew this was being published, she could have offered. On Ray,who is more ill-mannered and insulting than you can imagine, I met him, drove him around Washington, took him to my place, got him a place to stay, took him there, took him to DC next day, etc., took him to Sam to try and get him to make his projected monorgaph attaractive, etc. It is merely what we all dof for each other, what many have done for me. But far from wanting or using what he had, I had what he didn't, his stuff was then old, and I can show you in writing my suggestions and offers to improve his thing. He was his usual bullheaded self, refused, and his things was ineffectual, a real, dull bomb. These people have, in various ways, been helpful, but not one has ever done a personal thing for me. They have done things to help me help them. For example, when I was so busy and had no way of getting arounf on the first trip, I asked Maggie to pcik up something for me and mail it to my wife. It got to be real unpleasent when she at first didn't after saying she would and I kept writing to ask her home much I owed her and would she please check the store to see if they had sent it. Cost me $10.00 for an ordinary thin scarf. And I was home well before it was sent.

Brotherly: To a degree more than intended thiskmay be true. I felt that way about Burton for a while, and when I saw the condition Charlie Brown was in, particularly after Burton did nothing, I did feel that way about her, too. If it is on the info, too many of them understand too little of what is available and none of them have had acc4ess to what I have. In some cases, perhaps my toderence of what really should not have to be shows to others that way. Jaffe might have taken some open advise that way, and Burton. Fred? He just fawned all over me, so perhaps he put himself in that position? Lufton? As you know, I avoided him. So, that is a new sin.

If I were to make a guess as to what's bugging them (for it takes an awful lot to ally Maggie and Dave, even indirectly), it is their own transgressions and failures, Garrison, Turner, Boxley and Farewell should be enough to specify. Mine is the sin of the little boy against the emperor.

Ray is bridliant in some ways and is in love with his brilliance, his concept of it, the concept he thinks others should have, and is convinced no one else understands anything as he does. He is an egomeniac. The only thing that has mattered to him in years is what he says he sees in Moorman. That he never could get any attention with it merely convinces him he alone is bright.

My feeling for and indebtedness to Hal are unchanged. I do point out that the promised response is yet to arrive.

Lifton: Knowing he would, I taped that phone conversation. Only because Paul (possible Hal also) encouraged me to did I call him. He was puerile in the futility and immaturity of his pumping efforts, and I called him on them and told him if he didn't stop I'd hang up. I told him that with the threats that were coming back to me of his and KT's plans to sue me, I'd be foolish to tell him what I had learned of KT, what had interested me. I told him I had neither knowledge of or interest in the perjury charge. I asked him if he knew anything that wasn' t partisan, that came from anyone but KT, and all he could say is that I ought speak to his former roommate ((of an earlier era, who knew nothing and, life Dave, liked him, which is nonsense). It boild down to he took Thornley's word because he believed him an honorable man. I then challenged him to check out a few points where he could decide for himself whether or not KT was honest. One of these was the Open City picture presented as the way KT looked in NO, compared with Thornley Exhibit 1. Another was to ask for what evidence there was that Barbara practised witchcraft and had an altar in her home (KY helped her build it for a TV show, no other purpose)). Things like that. As you recognize, Thornley either is or is not an honest man. I suggest Dave's abandonment of the roundrobbin mailings against me, the more personalized campaign, is ample answer. And the whole Thornley things has been silent since (Es liebeler, may I add, became silent from the time I was out there until Garrison. He again became and has remained silent since he met me on Les Crane) an that is a year and a half now, his longest and a very uncharacteristic silence. He understood x and felt what the lightweights did not, poorly as I did compared to what I should have done.

On Maggie and Bill again, they even sent me copies of Liebeler tapes for me to tear apart and with them pointed out how he had Lane (hence all of them)on the ropes. He did have Lane, too, for foolish Lane had promised to sue Liebeler for calling him a lair and was forever promising the papers would soon be filed. I am not going through that enormous California file to get this out, but there you will find exactly what I say. Now I kept all the Calif. correppondence in a single file, but when they sent me material I kept it in the envelopes in which it came (you are familiar with how I tried to help Ray against Thompson and his "appreciation") and in a drawer because it wouldn't git in a file. I have just added Lifton's to the files nad here is Lillian's covering letter. She sent me two large mailings, 7/9 & 14/66 One is still in the envelope in which Ramparts returned it. Here is a copy of her letter. I am not taking time to read it and you may find more, but I do recall her fear and insistance her name not be mentioned, that she didn't want the cost refunded or any pay or credit. Yet you will recall that when once her name was publicly associated with this field, I dragged it into one of them manuscripts, just to give her credit. The only thing of hers I used is Clint Hill 's l ft shoulder. That I had missed. None of the rest is "hers" anyway. Almost all of it is general knowledge and observation.

And with all due respect, even JG found her way out.

But on this question of allegedly intending to steal from them, what was to steal if I had the intent? Remember, I had finished the fourth book and had written parts of others by 5/67, had finished O in NO end March or first April 67, had done WWII before Lane's appeared. All of my work that is now rpinted was printed well before Sylvia's or Tinks were even done. I was dredging the Archives beginning, I think in April 66. I got stuff then I still haven't used!

Not, it is not because I felt you believed these lies. And I appreciate your defanse, but I repeat you had better not be doing it for two reasons: if you think the effort of association with those people is worth the time and effort, it will reduce what you get, undermine their trust in you. And that part is not worth your time. Also, it may get them after you, and then you will take time!

Bear in mind also that this is second hand. I trust neither Lifton nor Fred to be always straight with it. I am not saying they are lying. I do not know, but I know enough to make me doubt both, generally.

I don't know what this business of Lillian and the maps is. She got her's from West. I saw a copy I take to have been hers in Sylvia's. I never used it. I got all of mine from the Archives. She sent me a meaningless Xerox of hers, noting it was incomplete, in 7/66, after I had published it, so I was aware that there was such a thing as a map or plat. And I never claimed anything about plats or maps. So far as "one map" is concerned, these blueprints are still in the mailing tube with her return address. There must be a dozen different ones or so. But I miss the point -and don't take time to tell me. I do not care. I merely point out lies.

Phew! Other things, now:

Olson could be valuable. Would like to see soonest, preferably two or three copies, so I can route to Dick and poss Nichols. I've discussed Sylvia with Garrison, but way back at the beginning. He is respectful of her work and intelligence and with the partocular kind of nuttiness that is his he like to be patronizing and give credit where it does not influence his concept of self. His comment on her book was that it was a really fine work that she needlessly marred by the criticism of him. She did not tell me what Brennar tells you that I, too, let him down. Oh, well, perh ps with that lemming-like character he really did want to get thrown out of court and disbarred. In preventing it, in bringing Vince in to help, probably, in this sense, I also let him down....Buick I know about, little more. I has some wierd letters from that prison, from total strangers pretending intimady and with Arnoni, to whom I sent. He didn't know them either.But is hot on this.

Bernabei also suspects Murr misconstrued something he said or his intensity, but I think it is Fred. I wrote and asked him why and he has not responded. Don't bother with him or Zitch, etc. I had to write Zitch again because I couldn't find the copy of the note in which I asked him if he preferred m ntion or anonymity. I wrote him recently and do not care whether or not he answers.

In closing, I repeat I cannot be certain I undertand what lies under all of this evil stuff. Aside from the foregoing, I think a certain amount is envy, a certain amount a reflection of their own failures(for example, I go out there and get what they do not, find what they have failed

to, clean up what they've messed, and piece together whatbthey have knocked apart. This is not praising myself, for I know or no extraordinary thing I did out there. It is more an indictment of them, and I think they realize it. Each in his own was has said to me what Burton did when we walked out of Howard's home with his pictures, him on tape, his promise of his files and cooperation, and he had just put his big Luger away, "I don't know how you do it", and he was shaking his head from side to side and lamost walking on air. They had all failed with Howard, as with Hall and the others I turned on. If I turned them on I know others also could have, non-Jews much easier. Also, perhaps their abdication also gnaws at them, for they did at the beginning what others also did and since then have done nothing and failed to do anything with the first things they learned. Oh, I don't know. I do regret it. And there is nothing I can or will do about it.

Let them wage their campaigns, report it so I'll know if there is anyone out there I can trust, but do not take your own scant time for response, instantaneous or other. Thanks, much, for the willingness.

Gary, if I can claim neither genius nor perfection or errorlessness, I do try to be honest. I think this gets through and helps me do what others haven't. There is no doubt I have from time to time erred. There is also little doubt that, especially out there, whenre I was so regularly insulted and exploited and was always past exhaustion, I may have rubbed some of them the wrong way. But I doubt if anything more is warranted. One of the problems is caused by time and my horrible typing. I just cannot take time to read and correct this (again I do apologize). It is possible that typos and excess haste may account for some instances. However, in examining the Fred file I saw none.

The next time I have a little time and enough to break Calif down I'll send you enough to satisfy you that the reason I went out there is exactly what I told you, meaning first trip (I now note that Lifton, cutie that he is, gave you the dates 67 and 68. That was 66. His kind of finger-crossing?

Best,

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

June 12, 1969

Dear Harold,

Received your letters of 6/9 and 6/10. Thanks for the enclosures. By now you should have received a number of things from me under separate cover. The most recent, mailed yesterday, is all yours to keep. Rennar will be sending more on the Alvarez matter, and will either mail it direct to you or send it through me.

Nicel claims to have photos which the Commission didn't use of the cartridges, and he is sending them to Olson. From there they will either be copied for Dick, you, and I, or he will follow my suggestion and send them to me, and I will get them all copied for free, with extra copies for you and Dick, and blowups. It would be interesting to know about photos they didn't use, like why didn't they, whose idea was it, etc.

From George Rennar's last letter to me: "Got a letter from Sylvia wherein she expresses puzzlement at Garrison's continued high praise of her. She says she could understand it before the acquittal, as an attempt to defang her, but not now. She doesn't seem to realize that it just might be an honest opinion. She cites somebody who just got back from New Orleans for a remark by Garrison that all the critics except Salandria let him down."

I am expecting George to send a copy of Boxley's interview with Crisman's buddy in SF, and also some stuff on Buick. George also writes: "A friend of mine has had some access to McNeil Island lately. He met a prisoner who was once a cellmate of Buick in Texas. My friend asked if he ever heard of Buick, and the prisoner's first reaction was, "Oh, that pinko."

On Fred and Dave, they probably do have something to do with turning people off, although the trial did that to many also. One of the reasons that I have continued to bug you for info about squabbles with those two is so that I will be prepared for an instantaneous challenge to anti-Weisberg propaganda as soon as I hear it. Lifton has a way of continually challenging people and harrassing them into changing their views which is surprisingly effective. He has done a great job on Fred, although admittedly, Fred's opinions seem easily changed.

I missed Foreman. I will do my best with Coup, but it was in damn good shape when I went through it. I have not been in touch with Hartmann, Zitch, or Murr, although I did send Murr one note, and made considerable efforts to get his clipping files back for him. Fred was often in touch with Murr, but I know little of the contents, except the letter copies I have which deal with trying to get his files back for him, from Bud, or Trent, or Dick Sprague. Murr was turned off by Dick Bernabei and has dissociated from many others--I will try to find a copy of something on this.

I greatly appreciate the value you obviously place on my opinions by spending so much time detailing your relations with Fred and Dave. I have gotten the feeling from your last 5 or 10 letters that you think I have been swayed by one or both of them which is not the case. I defended you immediately from the outset on all of these things to both of them, even before I knew more than a few details, or in some cases no details, utilizing just straight logic, my association with you and complete faith in you from intensive personal experience, and my association with other critics such as Vince and Sylvia, In addition, much of their flak comes from sources which they themselves normally deride, such as Maggie Field, Ray Marcus, and even Bill O'Connell. During that whole affair with trying to get the Z film from Ray they rejected all of those people, and now they turn around and use loose gossip from the grapevine from those same people. It is almost unbelievable, and I scarcely knew where to begin when trying to point this out to them. Needless to say, neither replied to such things. Fred is capable of amazing outbursts but is a far different figure from Dave who I see as easily sinister.

But Fred is doing some things which may produce useful info, and I think that he really cares, and is not as self-centered as he is incredibly self-conscious, so that I feel comfortable corresponding with him, although he has learned his lesson about defaming you in his letters to me. I think that Dave is a very bad influence on him. More important, however, is

that I send Fred nothing of real importance nor do I discuss it with him, since there would not be any purpose in it, even if he could be trusted to keep a secret, which I don't think he can. Mostly I discuss his work, or things he picks up, etc. A number of good things other than photographic work have been made available, and they have been of varying usefulness. The Jaffe stuff, for instance, and Jaffe's sample of Rose's handwriting. Then there was Lifton' file of clippings which you just got, which neither of us had access to, and which is very useful.

Olson says that Turner doesn't want his correspondence printed, which means though I suppos that you can quote from it anonymously, but with the dates, etc., and then have the documents to back it up. Turner told Olson to write himself, which he is doing, but he hasn't gotten replies yet. With Turner leading him into such correspondence, he might get more info than one of us.

Enclosed is the Reseda file you sent. Thanks. I copied it and now have it on file. I am trying to do some probing of attitudes on Lifton and Fred from those with whom we are both in# correspondence, since sometimes people are more frank with me about you, than they would be to your face. This doesn't imply deception, but only that certain things just aren't appropriate. For instance, I can disagree with Fred that you adopt a fatherly or father-knows-best attitude which, although often justified, annoyes people. You do not do this with me, but someone like Fred, who does need guidance, reactions violently even to a suggestion of such an attitude. From your letters to me, you were totally unaware of Lillian's very negative attitude towarded you. The LA group's manner of dealing with people, their clique, their grapevine, etc. disgusts me. God only knows what they say about me. But it is good to know about such things. Another problem is that sometimes a person has a legitimate gripe which seems excessive, but when the fact s are checked is not. Even friends often pass such things off as excessive or not legitimate rather than checking facts. I suspect that Hal Verb occasionally does this and that he may be the guy who has been referred to anonymously by Newcomb and Lifton, although I have no way of knowing for sure, who supposedly agrees with them about things about you. I also strongly suggest that they are grossly distorting. They did this with me. For instance, they said that they had assumed that I had come around to"the correct# attitude" about you or an enlightened attitude, because I agreed that you were extremely concerned with people stealing your stuff, etc., although they took it totally out of context besides. I also agreed that you tend to adopt a fatherly attitude, etc., but at the same time noted that it is crazy to allow such a thing to set you off. I tried to show them that all of us have personality quirks which would make it difficult for us to get along with each other if we worried about them, rather than someone's work, and our mutual interests, and that the critics more than any group I have ever known have stupidly let such things destroy their ability to work as a unit. I have pointe out that our own intolerance has done more# to hurt work on the case than many of the government best employees and servants and the sycophants.

On Lifton, his answer, which I tore to pieces, on the checking he was supposed to do on Thornley's honesty: "he would tell me practically (meaning you) nothing but one or two minor things which I immediately checked out and found to be trivial." [This refers to your phone call with him.] I said that if something was trivial, it shouldn't have taken a phone call to find that out, only an evaluation before it was checked. Thornley is either honest or dishonest trivial has nothing to do with that. Also: "Bill O Connell tells me this morning [5/31] that Weisberg's version [referring to you being asked to go out and do the job on Liebler] is fantasy, and he used that word. He does't know what Weisberg is talking about. Bill, who knew Maggie quite well at the time, can't understand what Weisberg is talking about when he states similar things on Maggie's urging him to come out here. [Lifton writes "re:67,68 trips"--?] Bill says that Weisberg is, at best, exagggrating the significance of some inconsequential formally polite, remark, and ballooning it up all out of proportion. Maggie always felt that Weisberg was trying to get near her manuscript so that he could have a moocher's field day." Then Lifton backs off and mentions that there was a trip by you out there in 1966, and said that you "made a mess of things on the Lomax show."

Also: "Lillian Castellano independently, and on her own, located, dug up, and paid for all the maps she has of Dealy Plaza. At a much later time, Harold sent her one map. She looked at it, immediately noticed that it was already one of the many she had, and sent it back to Harold with a thank you note. (I rechecked the whole story with Lillian this morning.)"

I tell you these things not for answers, but so that you have an idea of what certain people say about you, since I am sure that they would never say this to your face. Note that Lifton claims to have recently rechecked those stories. My own reaction is to ignore it as vicious gossip, but you should know the type of venom that some of the quieter ones will spread on request from Lifton of all people. Best wishes. Waste no more time on these people. I have more than enough ammo to do a job on Lifton. Thanks. Gary