

9/4/70

Dear friends,

There has been a development I would ordinarily consider impossible. Paul Hoch has done a "study", with melons, ~~xxx~~ no less, to "prove" that a shot from the back drives a human head backward, not forward. It is so anti-intellectual, so incompetent in concept and execution, so utterly illogical, bordering on the irrational, I had trouble believe the name of this brilliant and fine young man could in any way be connected with it.

I knew he had been working on it for some time. It had been my earlier impression, from the few comments he had made, that the idea originated with that arrogant Alvarez, whose earlier finkery was at best inadequate, an open theft of the observation, and more likely intended for the misuse to which it ultimately was put, despite the other explanation, than not.

The more I got into this, the more incredible it became to me that Paul could, consciously and willingly, have any association with this kind of miserable prostitution of "science" and defameation of the mind.

So, I wrote him a very elliptical letter, separately, then sent a hasty but long and, I feel, devastating commentary on the paper. I also wrote Hal, but again, believing his mail might be under observation because of his friends, feared open expression.

I finally decided, despite abundant contrary evidence, that Paul had been forced into this, most likely because of the control Alvarez has over his present and future. I do not trouble myself with why Alvarez has appointed himself fink, it being sufficient that he fills this role. However, the federal financing of his lab is sufficient, and there are parallel cases.

If this deduction is correct, then my calling Paul brilliant is an understatement, and for the moment it is perhaps best to let it rest with no further explanation.

However, because of the closeness of my relationship with Paul, I am anxious to know. One of the inconsistencies that troubles me is his having given me no indication of other than sincerity when he was here earlier. While I was probing the Archives and agencies, I sent him copies of everything plus my interpretations. If he is capable of this kind of work without compulsion, then I'm deeply disturbed.

Undisguised communication, between me and him or Hal, might jeopardize him if my belief (I hope more than just a hope) is correct, whether it be by mail or by phone. So, I'm writing to see if you can invite Hal over so there can be no doubt he understands the problem and so he can let me know what the reality is. Once I know there are certain steps I can undertake, should there be need.

COUP has been edited down to FRAMEUP: THE KING/RAY CASE, to be published by a small, new house. The beginning of our relationship is not auspicious, the first contract providing for but 35% of the agreed advance. The second was a bit better, stipulating 62% and correcting most of the other provisions that were other than agreed to. To bring the matter to a head, I wrote and signed an amendment to it, making it say what we agreed to, and I await the overdue return of my copy. Meanwhile, the editing has been completed, with greatest attention to the unneeded obvious. But what remains is a powerful book, definitive and, I think, irrefutable, with enough for what we should not expect, disbarments and other actions. Best regards and thanks,