

Dear Cyril, (CC SM, HR)

8/30/72

Well, your malpractice business should flourish now. But no other good has come from your venture beyond your depth and with those who could but drag you down lower. The harm you have done is, I suspect, beyond your comprehension, as is what you plan or at least demand beyond your comprehension.

If you have any self-respect you will forget this once and for all. I do not expect you to, but I am going on record, having been silent for a long time. By "this" I mean ~~not~~ the incredibly irresponsible public statements you have been making (which make Garrison the soul of probity by comparison); the further demands you can't begin to understand; having been too busy getting too rich to do any work that is required for understanding; and what I have presumed to be one of your objectives from the first, an article in some professional journal where, over and under your name, will be unoriginal work if not new and irremedial disaster for all of us and for what you have claimed to serve with nothing but unselfish purpose.

In this terrible thing you have done there are but two surprises for me: the complete unprofessionalism of it (I had the highest regard for your professional competence); and the stupidity (I also had the highest regard for your intelligence). Even that Graham would have his exclusive and the nature of Graham's story were so obvious I laid them out in detail almost 9 months ago, ^{including} to Graham, with Howard hearing my end of the conversation. I was not in any way opposed to Graham's being in touch with you about Lattimer. I recommended it and gave him all your phones. And even when your insatiable ego and ambition for unearned reward drove you to what I hope you can in time come to see is the unconscionable, and I was strongly opposed to it, to those I had reason to believe you would use as counsel I tried to be helpful to you, to prevent what you have done. Of course, I never expected you to counsel with a madman, and one not much more rational, ^{who knew} ~~knowing~~ Lifton to be very sick, made the recommendation if not the arrangements. If you asked Sylvia, she could not have but told you, though it took her years and later great pain to learn. I heard of this Lifton insanity of yours only recently and then perhaps third hand, from Canada. It was insanity. For your sake, I hope you don't find out as you can. The rest of us have been through it.

Now that you have validated the Warren Report, what worlds remain for you to conquer in this field? Except, of course, the work of others who have trusted you and your promise of confidentiality.

Should you now write a respectable article, you would but compound the evil. I am not going to take the time to explain, but again, I'm on record. But you don't know enough to write an article of which any responsible person would be ashamed. You sought counsel only where it was undependable. Everyone warned you of this. I know Bob Smith was working for you a year ago. Aside from zany notions he developed, one of which almost cost me a thumb (he was still looking for explosive bullets for you this past winter!), he hasn't the faintest notion of the realities of the medical evidence, as of my last conversation with him on this hadn't mastered what I did in early 1965, leave alone the substantial work like Sylvia's which followed. What I am telling you may be unwelcome, but I challenge you to ask Sylvia or Howard, far in the past as Sylvia's knowledge is. There is but one with less knowledge of the authenticated, published evidence than you, Jerry Policoff. Your demands are a complete and irremedial self description. Ignorance is hardly an adequate definition for a man with your really eminent credentials. There is this difference between you and Jerry: he hasn't read. You, the expert, have read and have not understood. So, before you go any further with the service to Hoover, Nixon, Kleindienst and all the other responsible for this tragedy in the wake of the tragedy, be aware that this is the only possible end product. Or are you really trying to validate the official fiction? I just can't reconcile the respect I've had for your ability and intelligence with this incredible performance. I don't intend a nasty crack in the question. It really makes more sense than anything you said, except to claim discovery of the magic bullet and the single-bullet theory.

You don't have to answer this letter and I don't expect it. But if you are driven to, have the self respect to be responsive. If you have, you'll not write. You did not call me the times you wrote you did. I keep a diary and my wife and I were both home. And you could have called again. Howard says you didn't phone him when Sylvia asked it and not when he said he is a not-wealthy student. So don't pull any more of that demeaning line, either. But you sure as hell did sit down with Sprague! On this, personable as he is in other ways, only the most ignorant could not know he is a madman. So I leave you to the Spragues and the Liftons and the other nuts. And, I sincerely hope, a late-developing conscience. Harold Weisberg