

6/24/68 Dick, something has happened that impels this note. I hate to stop writing the additions to COUP (Six chapters drafted), but I feel I must. It has an importance I do not spell out. I ask you to maintain the most complete possible silence about it, not mentioning to anyone that I asked you. It is this: have you been in touch with Lifton? If you have been, have you ever discussed with him any of my work, published or unpublished, or any of the other material of which I have sent you copies. If you have, would you please tell me in the detail you can what. I do not specify what in particular interests me in order not to color anything you might say if you have been. If you want to know the reasons, afterward, ask.

Whether or not you have been in touch with him, I give you my opinion, which you may or may not agree with. At best his is not in the best mental health. There is no reason to presume the best. He has done and is doing much harm, to me personally, for a reason I have not been able to isolate, and to us generally. He is wild, irrational, and has strong appeal to those willing to presume the most extreme concepts. There is no doubt he is not truthful and there is no doubt he is very bright, wily and an accomplished speaker. He is persuasive, too.

Sorry you are not here to enjoy the pool. Russ is, until tomorrow. He is moving to New York, is en route. I get in for 10-15 minutes a couple time a day instead of walking or working outside. Not enough. Only slight exercise. But very pleasant.

I have to go to New York for a few days. Be back before any letter you may write can reach me. Hope your thesis work is going well. Nothing new from John or Archives. If you have not gotten at least prints from Tom, please let me know and I'll retrieve them personally. I am disappointed it would so delay you, but I made clear your desires, which is also understood, I thought.

In haste,