

9/20/72 Dear Ed, With a few minutes before lunch today, I began to read the 9/1/72
Freep interview of R. Harris Smith by Barbara Cady on his OSS: History of America's first
Central Intelligence Agency. Lil had clipped an Establishmentarian review to which I'd paid
scant attention. From your ~~scribble~~ markings I suspect the subtleties were lost upon you and if
they were, there is a likelihood that younger ones, like Howard, may well miss what I think I
see, that this is a "liberal" apology for the CIA. I'm perhaps 1/2 way through the thing and
stopped to get to other work. I've marked it up as I've read it so I suppose that without a
great amount of work I could do a commentary on it. However, I could not now justify the
time it would take were I to type it. Were there the interest, I would talk it, on tape...
Some of this stuff is simply outrageous. ("Frankly, if there is a guerrilla warfare operation
in Laos, it is because the White House wants it, not because the CIA wants it.") Some is
incredibly candid, like the National Student operation being "liberal" when it was anti-Soviet
(and the two are not identical) in a way that is indistinguishable from fascist intent. The
deprecation of OSS is out of context. They made unbelievable blunders, but those blunders
beyond in a context...Cady is not a com on name. There was a Howard Cady in OSS headquarters.
I never knew him then. But he remembered me when I met him in 1965, when he wanted to do
WITTENBERG and he was at McKay (his is one of the letters in the inside back cover of WW).
I wonder if Barbara is a late daughter or granddaughter...OSS was not the first such. It
had a predecessor the name of which I've forgotten... I wrote one of the first histories
but I don't have a copy. (mine was of the secret operations, was stolen while I was getting
a medical discharge and surfaced as the movie OSS in which Cagney starred...This guy even has
the Ivy League types wrong. ... he didn't look at the available German documents "because
the Germans knew nothing about OSS...had no idea what it was!" How about the German documents
as they relate to the Germans (and the Pope an agent staff...such have read the German
documents on Aaron von Weisacker that passed through my hands!)? The hell the Germans didn't
know. The penetration in Italy was such that every SI team that was sent north was killed.
This is one of the larger and unreported scandals, but there can be no doubt CIA knows, as
most of those in OSS did...and they helped sit on LHO, with "beginning the negotiations"
(sic!)?...when it is remembered, I'll be interested in reading this. I'll finish the
Freep piece later. Thanks, Ed