

7/6/70

Dear Mr. Durkin,

What a prize bastard you are, with what unparalleled gall!

When your letter of the second arrived this morning, my first disposition was to ignore it, but I remembered I had never told you what I think of you for both your inexcusable conduct in deceiving me by asking for an explanation for which I took the time and you then promptly ignored in that drive/vilification/libel in Combat for April 1, 1969 and for the error, ignorance and unintelligent avoidance of the fact for the sake of the cheapest propaganda in that scribbling.

What a truly shameful thing it is you did, to pretend you seek the truth, impose upon my time for it, and then to pretend, with that Godlike front of all you extremists who speak softly and defame the word by claiming to be conservatives present, blandly ignoring it because it is so uncongenial to the precepts with which you begin, hence end, in its own way as doctrinaire as anything Stalin or Lenin ever said.

After that remarkable display of total intellectual dishonesty and abandonment of any standard of decent, honorable writing you have the gall to ask me for what I worked so long and hard to get, at such great cost -and for free?

Where the hell is this great dedication of yours, this consummate skill with which you pursue the assassination history, so touted in the foreword to that despicable crap, if you could not do what I did on your own? And after that writing, how can you justify to yourself even asking me for it? Have you not already said I am some kind of devious conspirator? Do I not have the ruin of the land as my ultimate objective? And am I not, as you said, a plotter, end of the left, whatever that is to a corrupted mind such as your writing shows you to be the victim of?

If you feel no shame, have you no pride? How could you bring yourself to truck with so evil a person as you portray me? For a few lousy pieces of paper, you would so humble yourself?

So you begin as an incompetent, unable to do simple things for your self, and add dishonesty for the sake of political propaganda, and end a vulture, who would pick the carcass you could not bring down yourself. I suppose jackal would be both more accurate and more descriptive.

On your way to hell, go write yourself a piece on how that dread Nixon-Mitchell-Communist/leftist/Marxist conspiracy denied you and your Congressmen the fruit of another's labor. How, indeed, could one be more un-American than to deny you what you had neither the guts nor the capability of getting for yourself, not even the ability to get when it was once shaken loose for you.

But don't fret. You wouldn't understand it is you saw it. Besides, do you not know what it says anyway? Your other writing carries this message, you know better than fact.

Besides, I've already digested for you, the only way you could understand it. Perhaps, in time, you'll see enough to find another plot, another secret leftist, another "Marxist" grinding some until-then secret axe.

With sincereist contempt,

Harold ...

Henry P. Durkin
PO Box 1537
FDR Station
New York NY 10022

July 2, 1970

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 7
Frederick, MD. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

The June 25th issue of The Washington Post carried the story about the availability of a 195-page packet of materials pertaining to the James Earl Ray case. I tried to get a copy from the Justice Department and so far received no reply. I even got my Congressman involved and he was informed that the packet was already out of print. Rather strange since he asked for one on my behalf three days after the newspaper story appeared.

Therefore I am writing to you to ask if you could send me a copy. I've been following the Ray case and would greatly appreciate having the documents in my files. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,



Henry P. Durkin