

Dear Lonnie,

8/6/80

Now I know you are getting old. The old (i.e., younger) Lonnie would not have been so kind with Summers.

I've read the book, a borrowed copy. While I'd like on for the archive I leave I'm not going to buy one.

Maybe I can coin a phrase for the many Summorses of the field, the omniscienti. Each steals the work of others, theorizes based on nothing at all except commercial acceptability, pretends to give generous credit while presenting the work of others as his own, loads his book with phoney notes (scholarship), creates confusion while undermining all credibility, and winds up with a theory that isn't even his own.

It is a good review and I'm glad you worked in the personal stuff, like he can't even non-recognize a Bircher in Dallas. And thanks for the plug.

Now on that business of what LBJ believed, oddly I just gave what I regard as a good story to another. If he doesn't go ahead with it and if you think your paper would feed its wire services, I'll give it to you. Authentic. You can even use the document in facsimile. Going along with the document I got under FOIA is a considerable and I think interesting background, which I do have.

Summers is wrong in his invention you quote re LBJ, "He came to believe that Cuba had retaliated with a sort of pre-emptive strike," as he is with what follows, "but it was a belief based more on inspiration than reason."

All of these crooks, beginning with the early Lane, manage to ferret out one of my few mistakes and lift it along with the rest that they steal. Summers did, too.

The moneyed publishers go for conspiracy. McGraw-Hill spent a pot on Summers. MacMillan has one in galley, ^{by} ~~has~~ a guy who I regard as nuts but is an authentic scholar who also is a theoretician. Thanks to the money used in promotions these BS artists reach many people. But I've not known one of the books to be a commercial success.

Hope you are all well and not having our kind of weather with which Dallas has made the news. So hot and so dry there is a water problem and the gardens are ruined. Best to you all from us both,

Dear Hal,

Enclosed is a copy of my book review on Summers' effort.

You will note that I worked in the name of Harold Weisberg with an inference of dedication.

After reading Summers' collections of misinformation, I have a strong feeling that the newsboy standing on the corner outside our building could talk McGraw-Hill into publishing a book on how to win at dime (inflation, you know) pitching.

I have a strong feeling that CONSPIRACY will fail to make the best seller list even though it is an outstanding example of BS.

As ever,



Lonnie