

10/27/71

Dear Sylvia,

Today I finally received an unsatisfactory response from Cyril. I stopped everything and wrote him again, but in this letter I told him so far as I am concerned I will have no further correspondence on the matter, and I mean it. It is not for such things that yesterday I worked almost 22 hours. As with the first, where I sent Ned only a copy, feeling I had to, I have made and plan no distribution of any of this correspondence. My purpose is not to cause hurt but to prevent it. And I am finding that my efforts to explain my own position and the potentialities that I feel may ultimately have to be confronted and the state of mind in which I would then have to confront as a waste, quite possibly because of my haste and emotion. In any event, I have no more time for them, either. I write you at all only because you were inadvertently involved in this. You realize it was not my doing. I am also learning that intelligence is no substitute for fact, and I am growing more apprehensive about the potential for innocent harm by those who have not been able to continue their work in any meaningful new way and have not had time for political thinking. You are, of course, welcome to anything you may want, but I'm not sending copies to anyone. Ned is due here tomorrow, I suspect to back out on his own deal, and if he shows the slightest sign, I'll encourage it. Some years ago, when Lifton was in the midst of his vicious campaign and all those I thought my friends were silent + almost decided to become a hermit, do my own thing alone and the hell with everything else, but I didn't. I should have. I know I can't just abdicate and let the well-intentioned make mistakes that can hurt what so many of us have worked so hard to try and achieve, but unless it is really serious and I think really dangerous I'm going to have to quit trying to be policeman. For so many to think that we and the situation we faced when the WR came out have been immobile is incredible to me. I neither directly nor indirectly intend this to be taken as directed at you, it isn't. I'm making a general commentary. From the likes of Sprague to the likes of Cyril, that is what it is, as I see it, and there is nothing I can do about it. I may have on Sprague, though, but I'll not take the time again. Perhaps at some point I'll do the rest of a started book, The Mardi Gras Solution to Political Assassinations, and then I'll write something that will be less painful and a bit more fun in some way. Hope your asthma has eased off, that the current DC stupidities present no new hazard to your budget, and that your spirits are better than mine.

Best,