

Dear Sylvia,

1/23/81

When I came to the point in Lifton's book where he refers to a call he made to you in Liebel's interest from Joe Ball's office I decided to renew FOIA requests through DoB, in the hope they do not refer me to all the other components. I'll keep you and Roger posted.

To call Lifton a ~~black~~ pig is to defame swine. He has spent the years perfecting his natural skills in the widest assortment of dishonesties and has become quite adept in them. As usual he is uninhibited in his pursuit of evil.

His work can be more than usually hurtful because its excesses will, inevitably, be wiped off on all critics, as George McMillan is now about for the New Republic. It also is very hurtful to a large number of innocents. Now it is no longer the people. It includes their children and grandchildren.

Donnie Higgins told me that several of those Lifton quotes climbed all over him on cable TVs to his face. If anyone has time to get a transcript of that it could be useful.

I don't know if Gardner is going to review for the Post. I know that Lifton courted him and that he found Lifton's videotape effective and persuasive.

It would be good if I could be kept as informed as possible in the event I am asked by anyone.

I'd almost welcome being asked to do a review!

If you know what his great sensation everybody was keeping so secret for years is I'd like to know if it is some of the drak in this sickness of a book. It can't be the "discovery" of the report of surgery in the S-O'Neil report because I was in contact with many about it yours ago. I don't recall if I included it in PM. It can hardly be the shuffling of the caskets or the critics are as bad a lot as he makes out.

Best wishes,