

Dear Sol,

12/24/92

Whether or not Cottrell's Izzy is a good biography of Izzy Stone John Judis' is a poor review. It also is not accurate. I think that whether or not consciously Judis used the review to puff himself up.

His name is familiar. Did he write for the Progressive a few years ago?

Judis pontificates that "Mr. Cottrell is ~~quite wrong~~ on shaky ground, however, in applauding Stone's work before 1952."

In saying this Judis is either ignorant, opinionated or both.

Izzy's reporting in the Philadelphia/Camden area was good reporting. He was excellent at the New York Post when E J. David Stern owned it and Izzy did editorials. And he was fine on PM. Judis makes no reference to these papers or to his work for The Nation, also fine work.

During the life of our committee I used to send Izzy galley proofs of the hearings. I then was not alone in this and that may have contrivuted to his later extensive use of such things. I hope so because he was magnificent in finding in them what others missed.

I did not see him often after World War II. One of the last times I saw him his brother Mark was doing public relations for Ramparts and had a nice but paranoidal JFK assassination conspiracy theorist in tow. Izzy had a blind spot on the assassination. I am inclined to attribute it, as with many others, to Johnson's cunning in making Earl Warren the commission's chairman. That immobilized the eastern intellectual establishment.

I am confident that Izzy's newsletter was a great educational experience for many if not most of its readers.

Thanks for the review.

Best to you all,