

9/17/70

Dear Gary,

It has been exceptionally hot for Sept. the past few days, getting to 95 and above. The temperature more than work and chores decided me against a vigorous (for me) walk that I've been taking daily. However, last night I decided upon one this morning, as soon as it is daylight, before leaving for DC to work with Bud and Jim on the Rey case and the few extra things I always do when I go there. I suppose that is why I was wide awake earlier than I intended, but not feeling like going back to sleep (the breeze has made it a wonderful morning for sleep) and having nothing special I want to read, I have a chance to write you about something that has intruded into my consciousness several times recently.

Having heard nothing at all from you on Paul's nightmare is rather exceptional. I know it can be accounted for by the work you have to do and by study. I know also it can be attributed by the time required for your therapy. I am not at all trouble that you haven't written about it and the chief purpose of this letter is that it not trouble you.

What I did I did in great haste. I have not been distributing it for several reasons, one of which is to avoid fixing the opinions of others, for I think they should be completely independent on something that holds potential for evil that this does. Besides, you know how I've felt about Paul, and I would avoid anything that might be in any way unfair to him. Influencing the opinions of others could be unfair.

Having seen what Sylvia sent him, if she made any real effort, then there is not much to expect from others, for aside from passion, which she expressed in her usual forthright and lucid manner and rather pointedly, she had no observation I hadn't made and found relatively few of the egregious errors I had already noted also, I fear, without catching all of them. This is not to downgrade you, but I believe that if Sylvia added nothing to what I'd already done, the prospects of others doing it are not great and the probability of my having missed anything of real significance is slight.

So, if you are busy, instead of sending him an analysis, I suggest that you send Paul an expression of your regrets, for I am confident these you feel. I described that fairies and needles stuff to him as felt-world science. If you should feel that you have to tell him something and do not want to immerse yourself in the emotional drain of making a detailed analysis, why not just give him a brief general opinion, whatever that may be? I think it is important to do this, for unless we all do, he may not regard what he has done as being as important as it really is - especially to him and to his future in science. My own opinion is that he will not live it down, especially within himself.

I have made unproductive efforts to learn what, if anything, lies behind this. What I have avoided telling you is that I considered it probable that Alvarez, with the great control he can exert over Paul, is responsible. The one response I have had, from Hal (total silence from Paul after two weeks and a separate letter) indicates my hunch is not valid. Hal thinks Paul is quite independent and sincere about this, I cannot evaluate Olson's position in all of this. As you know, I've had a dim view of his work for some time, so I've not corresponded with him.

Despite Hal's failure to provide comfort and Paul's silence, there remains the possibility that Carl is under some kind of compulsion, and I will not lose sight of this. I therefore am postponing writing to Physics Today for another few days. If I've not had the right kind of assurances from him soon, however, I will write and ask equal and coinciding time and space. Whether or not I get it, I'll have made partial answer in the effort. I have no reason to assume they'll reject my request or that, after getting what I'd send, they'd still publish that sickness as a contribution to science.

What I sent was put in the vigorous manner one who knows me would expect of me. However, it was not aimed at Paul personally and was designed so that he could show it to Alvarez and bring about the end of the project if Alvarez dominates it, which I'd assumed. It also included a request for several extra copies so I could have my own evaluations made by their peers - and I've gotten no copies. And I also said I'd had it from that whore Alvarez, that is he did lend himself to this I'd take steps about what he had plagiarized from WHITEWASH and used as his own original work on the CBS videowhitewash of 1967. I feel that touched several sensitive nerves, for I have always felt, although he has never said it, that Paul read this there and raised the question with A, thus initiating that rotten bit. It also, as I presume you recall, was devoid of the essence of science but was cloaked in the superficialities. Whether or not it leads to anything, I'll go after CBS again unless they drop this thing, and the case against CBS is legally a good one, since I did let them have the limited edition and they did consider it with some care, then when it came asking permission to hold it longer for his assistant to read it. That assistant is the man who produced that series. So, there is no CBS innocence on this. Time will tell...

Another thing before I have to suspend. I do not know why you are taking therapy, but whatever the reason, I think you should have no feeling of guilt for not being able to spend the time you might like in this work and that, if you have to withdraw from some of it, it should be with a clear and entirely untroubled conscience. Few have done as much as you have done or done that as well. The other things you do you must do and this includes the adequate preparation for what you will do with your life, the real purpose for your being in college now. This is your primary obligation to society as it is to yourself. I hope you can understand that your work on the assassinations must be subordinated to this and that when and if it is, you should be untroubled by it. I may be expounding the obvious, but as you've often heard me say, I believe the obvious often ought not be avoided, for it must also be understood. With Howard, for example, I've been a bit more forthright about this, including within the past few days, not that he is in college. Unless those of you who are younger can keep this in perspective, it will distort you and your lives. This should not happen, especially as we have no right to expect all the evil to be righted overnight. There is much time, unfortunately.

So, if I have addressed the reasons for your silence, I do it to reassure you at a time when you may be having your own emotional problems. You should not complicate them needlessly, if they exist, with needless guilt feelings or other considerations that might be distorted because of your deep conscientiousness.

The needs of the day intrude. I hope that the customary haste with which I address everything has not caused a lack of clarity in what I've been trying to say. ...Cool. Gary, real cool...If we do not prevent this new trouble, we will also overcome it. And, if a worse interpretation of what is afoot, which I've not indicated but am aware of, is the reality, I suggest it is a measure of our success, not our failure.

Best regards,