

Dear Walter,

7/5/75

It is the news about Dick Gregory's latest stupidity under Ralph Shoneman's prodding, a new benefit to the CIA, that prompts this letter. My reason is concern not over the ambivalence you expressed when I phoned you a couple of weeks ago but for your integrity and future self-respect.

My concern also is that in time you will look back and realize that emotion, not logic or reason, influenced you.

The fantastic, super-Hollywoodians boost to the Rockefeller Report was not enough for these people. Now they do more.

You should recall that long before there was a Rockefeller Report I told you precisely what they could and would say, with accuracy and not with bias. My judgment erred only in that the whitewashers did not find it necessary to say all they could have said, apparently and correctly deeming understatement more effective.

The harm all this has done, is right now doing and will yet do you cannot begin to imagine because you have no involvement in these matters.

Nor do you have any way of knowing the good that could have been done had a tiny fraction of these efforts gone into constructive effort for which there is no help and is and has been this hurt.

Have you heard of the new Department of Disinformation operations that besmirches the black mayor of Atlanta and his director of public safety? Or how it got to him (through another black he trusted)? Or what it does and can yet do to finding out who really killed King?

About these things I am without ambivalence.

I don't think you have ever heard me say that anyone is a CIA agent. This is and long has been a distinction without a meaning for me. I am interested not in official connections but consequences. Not that some of the most super-radical have not turned out to be actual agents, an ancient truism that should not be new to you.

I could carry this much farther but because my point is not to argue but to alert it would serve no purpose.

When I am confronted by the kind of question that appears to trouble you I ask myself simply, "cui bono?" Often the answer is all I need.

In this case I'd suggest that you also consider the timing.

And with that also ask, "cui bono?"

You might consider the Atlanta play the same way. I know the ancient garbage that was dumped on these trusting people there and by whom and through whom.

If it were for self-aggrandizement only, by my standards it would still be an obscenity.

You owe me nothing, not even a response. But you owe yourself something.

Best to Agnes,