

3/21/70

Dear Howard,

I've gone through the spectre of a man not trained to be a liar little improved as a liar after five years of added practise. Specter's words are a delight to me and I'll probably use a few of them in TMill, sort of an extra syrfacing of the road to Clobbersville. There is very little of his error in this "debate" that is accidental, the kind that is inevitable when men speak ad lib and under some tension. It is conscious, deliberate misrepresentation and falsehood, where there is no possibility of shifting the blame because he is the guy who did it.

You quote none of Thompson, but it is not necessary to read his jewels to know he got battered.

The best face I can put on this is what I've been telling you all along, that Tink did practically no work of his own, lifting what he liked of that of others, and understood little of that or what he may have done for himself.

Specter had to know what kind of guy Tink is to accept a meeting with him. He sure refused enough with me! If Thompson let that stuff go unchallenged, he not only didn't understand the testimony (assuming he read it) but he remembered only what he cribbed from my work. Which was too much, but not on these points.

When I have finished PM III I'll be in touch with him again. Or, perhaps before then I may get an invitation to make a speech in Phila where it might get a little attention.

Meanwhile, while I have no reason to credit it, there remains the belief of some that Tink was a conscious agent. This began as an embellishment of my original and spontaneous conclusion that he had evolved a co-out formula he thought might sell, telling the government the minimum compromises it had to make to achieve any credibility but still preserving for it the basic conclusion of Oswald's guilt, a face-saver.

Except that he made up new lies to meet new problems, there is nothing new here. With only the Tinks having a chance at him, there is no limit on the improvisations he can contrive. But I suspect he'll regard this Tink thing as all that can be expect of him and, if forced to, will declare that.

There had to be relief and he got it through Tink.

Indeed we do have such friends we have no need of enemies!

Sincerely,