

8/21/71

Dear Lita,

I've too much I have to get done by Monday and can't to make full response to your note of the 17th. What you say is nature and correct.

Russ came here yesterday evening, left this morning, and we had a long talk last night. On every point except one, an important one, what he said is reasonable. I neither pressed nor chided him on that point. It had to do with his telling anyone about a leak of any kind in Maryland. On that he gave no real explanation, and he had to have known it could have jeopardized me and my source.

He says he never had any direct contact with Mrs. deP, that he was in touch with Riley at the gunshop only. In short, his only "inuteman" contact of any kind, as he explained it, was through this one man. In part, if this is true (is it?), that was at my behest after he told me of the contact.

He is changing, as is natural and right, from the reflection of himself in his martyr note to me, and I think trying to find and reorient himself in a not-irresponsible way. I hope so, anyway.

And as I think he has come to understand the mistakes he made and why they were mistakes, I also think - and do hope - it is less likely he will repeat them.

We did not have much political talk, except of the "inut men, where we did he had oversimplified and immediately understood his error in reasoning and that he was comparing things that could not be compared, etc.

Anyway, thanks for your concern for both of us. There was no unpleasantness of any kind.

Best,

near Harold,  
Please don't forget that  
things I've told you can  
be taken for revenge  
or bitterness. Remember  
the things Carol has  
done and said, and R's  
reactions to them. Please  
keep in mind that he  
may believe I've done the  
same, even though he  
and I have long disagreed  
on the activities I've men-  
tioned.

I don't feel I'm being dis-  
loyal to him as much  
as being loyal to you.  
I plead with you  
not to discredit  
him until he has  
thoroughly explained



honestly as I now believe  
he may be able to.  
He's always known more  
about what he's doing  
than I have.

Please believe I have  
no desire to hurt any-  
one.

Sincerely,  
Lita