

6/8/69

Dear Hal,

I've a few free minutes before someone comes. Since finishing the Epstein "Counterplot" this morning I've been intending to write. I've felt you believed me paranoid, perhaps a bit harsh or unreasonable in some of the things I've been saying about Lifton and Fred. If you read his section on Thornley and see what this pair have loaned themselves to (I'm presuming that in each case you do know the truth), you'll have a small example of what I mean and have meant.

If it stops here, if the Epsteinster is not ever quoted, they have already caused and been part of more harm than either will do good.

Now it happens that Lifton is Garrison's source on Heindell, having supplied him with a Thornley affidavit saying what Epstein says Garrison was trying to frame Heindell with. Luce had a copy but couldn't find it a short while ago. If you remember the "Open City" crap, you may recall a halfassed and inadequate apology Dave made.

And it also happens that Fred knows better, knew and wrote me that he knew there was nothing sinister in what I asked of him - and the result, which is quite contrary to the interpretation twisted initially by Lifton, who is almost a good a twister as Epstein, almost as practised, lacking only the outlets.

In any event, these lies and distortions will be misused on many occasions, and they will find expression in the mass outlets denied us.

As a matter of fact, I keep getting indications that Fred has immersed himself in a rather large campaign against me, again with falsehoods. Personally it makes little difference to me and I have done and will do nothing about it. However, he seems to have turned off a number of good workers who had done a few good things. Gary asked me a few questions and I answered them. While I do not believe he believed what Fred had told him, he seemed troubled. I am troubled only at those needless diversions which keep the few people doing any work away from work and disturbed. You ~~can~~ can find a measure of Fred's integrity in "Lost Train". I don't know what has happened to those LA people, for most of them are acting like nuts and too many of them are not being either forthright or truthful. I have made no effort to learn what is going on, know only what I've been told. Some of it is pretty nasty and of a nature easily embroidered.

In any event, when Fred and Dave are part of Epstein's work, however they get there, I need know no more. That is more than enough.

I've had a number of things keep me from writing lately. We've both okay, tired and wearied further by the foolishness and dishonesties. Sylvia has had a report that Garrison is writing a book. When I was pressed for time I included a carbon of a letter for you and Jim to Paul. Since finishing "Counterplot", I feel he either has connections some of us have suspected or there is a very well organized other size emerging. Best to you all,