

THE MINORITY OF ONE

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Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

My dear Salandria:

I want you to know exactly how I feel about the whole recent episode.

Anyone who has ever engaged in research has gone through the kind of disillusionments as that which befell us. In this sense, there was hardly anything unusual about our experience. Indeed it is probably a necessary ability of the scientist and researcher to accept such disillusionments with ease. Recently, I have watched the collapse of a particular cancer research that had been conducted by one of the world's most outstanding authorities in this field over a period of many years. The man happens to be a Nobel prize laureate in medicine--which in itself is quite a serious credential. When after many years of most painstaking research, and many months of virtually unshakable belief that he has found a cancer cure, this whole meticulously assembled scientific structure collapsed in one check test. I thought that the man would be shattered. Not only wasn't he, but he took the thing in stride. I saw you react to our own disillusionment in a similar vein, and even cheerfully. What a beautiful testimonial for you!

In a conversation with Sylvia Meagher she suggested that at least the experience we had has shown up the true nature of some people, this reference being to those at Ramparts. This of course is unchallengable. But I retorted that perhaps more important was the fact that I had an opportunity of discovering two or three very decent, honest human beings. Your behavior, while tempted

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not only with financial offers but also with prospects of wide publicity, was so exemplary as to reinforce my belief in man's good potentials; in your case it is not potentials but reality.

I have also to say that I derived similar satisfaction and reinforcement of my belief in man from Sylvia Meagher's beautiful outrage at the gimmickiness and dishonesty on the part of some Ramparts people.

Max Geismar, who, as I told you, had asked me to convey his admiration to you for your behavior, has himself acted most admirably. Being senior Editor of Ramparts he could have easily responded to their pressure to approach me about this matter. Indeed he might have done so while presenting himself to be exercising our friendship. Instead, he called me simply to warn me of the foxiness to which I was about to be exposed.

I am easily bribable: I will consider a thousand disillusionments with people more than balanced by the discovery of one man I can admire and respect. So I feel happy and rewarded knowing you, Sylvia, and Max.

With sincerity,

Menahem Arnoni

MSA:mw