

September 11, 1970

Dear Sylvia:

I am absolutely speechless! I have just received Harold's letter. He undoubtedly sat up all night writing it after I departed Monday night.

We really didn't do too much talk about the investigation. Really just rested and stayed by the pool. I was so very pleased with the visit and felt that it had done me a great deal of good. (We are still trying to get Jimmy placed, and every time we think we have him in something they turn him down because of the "trouble") I was really getting pretty sick-at-heart about the whole thing. The trip made me relax and get away from it all. Lil and Harold were both just wonderful to me. Of course, Harold started right in wanting to know what I knew about David's work. I made it very plain that I had promised not to discuss David's work at all. When Harold kept on saying that David was going to do nothing but steal other people's work, etc., I said that "...Sylvia and I decided that David doesn't intend to do anything constructive with what he has." Harold made a number of suggestions for handling the situation which I vetoed or ignored. I finally said that I was leaving it entirely up to Sylvia... I trusted your judgment and knew that you would do the right thing to help the situation. Then he started in about how wrong it would be for you to do anything. I more or less ignored this and tried to change the subject to flowers and wild animals which Lil adores...

Harold certainly gave me every indication that he thought a great deal of you and admired your work, and so forth. But, I think this letter is terrible. It sounds very accusative of everything to me. I am just heart-sick over it. I really can't imagine him doing such a thing. Oh, I know he is good at writing nasty letters and accusing people of "stealing his work" but he was so very different in person where you are concerned. He praised you highly and seemed so glad that I had met you and loved you. Never one derogatory word!

I don't know how you read his letter. I know you have more insight into these people than I have. But, it is a very nasty letter, as far as I'm concerned. I am through with him. I never intend to write to him again or talk to him over the phone. I wouldn't blame you if you felt the same way about me. But I do hope you will understand that I am extremely sorry for my part in this thing. I hope you will forgive me for even uttering your name to this insane man.

Love,

Mary