

Not sent
HW called 3/29/69 8:30 am
met him 11:15 to 12:40 pm
Lynn State

28 March 1969

Dear Harold,

Thanks for your letter of the 25th, which I am answering today because it doesn't appear likely that we will manage to get together during your New York stopover. I am about to leave for Brooklyn, to spend the day. I haven't seen the children (my nieces' offspring, four of them) since New Year's day, and this is one of the rare occasions when we can all be together at one time. So, as I am between UN meetings and my work is up to date, I am taking the day off for past overtime put in.

I was sorry to learn that you have been ill but glad you are well enough to keep your speaking date. Perhaps we will be able to meet tomorrow, as you had suggested—I'll try to wait for a call from you, but Saturday is my chore-day for marketing, laundry, hairdresser, etc. Incidentally, I hope the ms. got back to you safely, please confirm (I did insure it for \$50).

You realize yourself that your offer to share certain findings with me on condition of absolute secrecy, never to be used or mentioned to anyone, presents me with a real conflict. Of course I do have the keenest interest in anything that sheds further light on the unresolved questions and problems; but it is hard for me to make the commitment you ask "blind" so to speak. I could agree, in all good faith, but then find at some future time that the information, by its substance and nature, creates some kind of dilemma or moral conflict in which both the promised silence or the utilization of the knowledge, positively or negatively, will still leave me with a bad conscience or an insoluble conflict. I had something of that kind of dilemma in re: Forman's monograph, which I did keep confidential for more than a year during which there were times when it was excruciating to be silent. Once or twice I found myself making veiled hints; one person was bright enough to reason from a tenuous allusion I had made and reach damned close to Forman's key finding (re: the 14 cm. measurement), and had he then published, as he was entitled to do, you can imagine how I would have felt, and Forman would have felt.

So, on balance, I think I could not make the commitment you ask, without any reservation whatever, but could only agree to keeping anything strictly confidential unless or until there are overriding reasons, in my judgment, to depart from the agreement, with your prior agreement if feasible. But I think it would be difficult for you to accept such a proviso since we have certain serious differences of view and judgment on particular evidence or individuals. I must interrupt here—the bell just rang, and my niece Busan and I are off to see the others in Brooklyn. Be well, Harold, in case I don't connect with you tomorrow,

Hastily,