

Dear Carla Van Dyne,

4/1/95

A week from today I have a birthday. Then 10 days later ~~lil~~ ^{lil} has hers. God willing we will then have accumulated 165 years between the two of us. During the past 30 or so years, more so in the more recent years, what has meant much to us is the fine letters of appreciation like yours. So I write to express our appreciation for it.

All of our work, all our records, even our property goes to a fine small largely womens college here in Frederick, Hood College. The volume of the archive will be, as it now is, enormous. The enormity, in fact, is a means of defying access, there is that much to read.

In thinking about this a year or so ago I came to believe that what may be of special interest is the evaluation of what we have done by strangers. I try to answer all the letters and file them by the letters of the alphabet. I could not possibly have so many separate files. We have heard from at least 20,000 strangers, strangers to begin with, anyway. Still a pretty large volume. So beginning about a year ago I started a separate file of particularly nice and pleasing unsolicited comments and opinion.

That is where we are putting your letter.

You speak of those who have written nasty things about me and you refer to their indebtedness to me. They have all had unsupervised ^{access} ~~access~~ to all I have add to our copier. I've gotten about a third of a million pages of once-~~withheld~~ withheld government records they have been able to copy, with none of the cost, effort and trouble we had in getting them through more than a dozen lawsuits under FOIA. Some of them are not content with getting copies without any charge. Some also steal only copies. And of what they have written about me, I know of not an instance in which what they have ~~we~~ written was not either false or carefully distorted. If they did not know the truth, as without question some did, they could have learned it easily enough. If they had wanted truth.

For all the copies of all those slanders that have been published, I have not gotten a single letter or call reflecting belief in any of it.

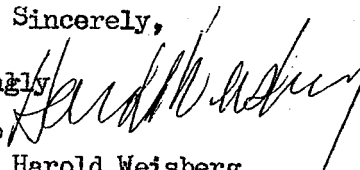
We do not like it but it also does not really trouble us.

As the lawyer s say, the record speaks for itself.

We do appreciate your letter and we do thank you for it very much,

This is not a woman of means. She buys checks with which to pay for the books she orders. That is increasingly true of those from whom we hear in recent years. They do not have their own checking accounts.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg