

4406 Holland
Dallas, Texas 75219
September 8, 1969

Dearest Harold:

I am not quite sure exactly what was behind the letter I received from you today, but perhaps by using a little ESP I can manage to get your meaning... or your questions...

Harold, before I met you in person, I had heard many things about you and your work. Everything I heard about your work was good. (How could anyone say anything else? I had all of your published books!) But, not everything I heard about you would necessarily be taken as complimentary. When I say "not necessarily" I mean that not everyone admires a straight-forward person, a person who can be abrupt and demanding when the occasion calls for it.

Having worked most of my adult life for men who were in positions where they could afford to be demanding and abrupt, it has placed me, as a secretary, in the position of "passing the buck" and applying pressure and "bluffing" to get things done. Of course, I have had an advantage that you wouldn't have had. I could, when the occasion called for it, come on with this hillbilly accent and "act like a helpless woman" and get some things accomplished in that manner. However, I am very much a person who believes in "getting the job done" regardless of methods used.

I don't really know why I let all the things I had heard about your gruffness and other qualities disturb me and make me a little apprehensive about meeting you. But, frankly, I wasn't expecting to like you at all. But, when I met you, you struck me as a warm, friendly person and I realized that any thing I had heard about you had been something used to "get the job done."

In the past three months, perhaps I have frightened off any derogatory comments by stating at the first mention of the name "Harold Weisberg" that "I just love Harold Weisberg..." and that since meeting Jim Garrison in the spring of 1967, I have met no one in this case who has impressed me as much as Harold Weisberg. Needless to say, if unfriendly comments were about to be made, this would have stopped them cold.

If there is any way in which I can help to straighten out any difficulties you are having, please just call on me. (My husband will tell anyone, "Don't let her size fool you. She should have been a prize-fighter or a lady wrestler.")

Love,



Mary Ferrell

P.S. On a recent "visit", I did make the comment (as you would have-- in a straightforward manner) that it appeared that the buffs were spending more time fighting each other than trying to solve anything.

value to me, but, in the long run, more importantly, they are now almost entirely cut off from mine and the criticism I might have provided that their work requires. There is and has been too much conjecture, too much unsubstantial work, too much error obvious with greater knowledge published in various ways when analysis would have established the error.

If others find me gruff, I must acknowledge the possibility. In some cases, particularly fatigued as I have been and always over-extended when I am away, I have perhaps been less tolerant than I might and should have been. I do not believe I have been this way, but I acknowledge, without restriction, that I may have been or, what is more likely, that I have been mistaken to be this way. What is more probable is that, without intending it, I have been patronizing or, as it has been put to Gary, overly "fatherly". (The fact is I am old enough to be the father of most involved, which does not excuse it.)

In California, for example, I have rarely gotten any sleep, frequently have worked around the clock, never averaged four hours a night when I was there, and often found or accomplished what those living there had missed or failed to, which did not endear me to them, I fear and is no credit to them, either. Yet there is none there who I have refused anything, only two of whom I had initial mistrust, both having amply warranted it before we met and both having done things hurtful to me before we met (which did not make me lack trust in them, what they did in other regards did).

What we are engaged upon is much too serious for levity, in expression or approach. I rarely joke about it. And there is a certain fear of me not because of what I have done to our own small band, if that is what we are, but what I have done to our enemies. Among us, I have, to my thinking, warranted the feeling I am gruff or something like that because I rarely withhold comment on what I believe to be error. This may pinch a few nerves. And there has been much too much error by some of those you have seen recently.

It is partly because I believe the person involved may lack disinterest, partly because I find it disagreeable and sometimes take it to heart, partly because I do not want to be diverted, that I asked you to tell Gary, who has been put in the position where he is already enmeshed in this counterproductivity and is knowledgeable about the people and the issues as well as potentiality. One of us in a position to evaluate should know. There is much of this he doesn't tell me, which is right. I probably lack the spirit of vengeance to the degree we perhaps should hold it. But I am not personally worried about it. I am concerned about the consequences we have already faced and more about what this may yet lead to and what is behind it. So, if there is anything of this sort you have picked up recently, when there is time, I hope you will tell Gary, even if it is seemingly slight. He can evaluate it, discard it or attribute significance to it.

Now back to work. I've almost finished correcting a lengthy ms dealing with the King case. Thanks for taking the time.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg