

Dear Ed,

12/27/75

Thanks for the card, which came today. We used to enjoy sending them as we do receiving them, but that has been impossible for us for years.

I'm sorry that a this week's development does not inspire the same kind of warmth within me. It goes back to your taking so many of my files, leaving the rest a shambles, keeping them for so long and now, apparently, still not having returned all of them. When I'm limited in what I can do, physically and other ways, it is more ~~xxx~~ unsettling.

As you know, we have financial problems. This year, by relieving them with some consultancies, I was able to get enough to print Post Mortem - at the risk of not being able to reprint I and III, which are getting close to out of print. Well, I've latched onto a good one. It is taking time but the pay will be, as I measure things, half of what it will take for the mechanical costs of one reprinting. So, the researcher comes here, I know in advance what I have -oops, should have - and what do I find? The slip sheet you put in the folder that held my Bolden file and the AP and UPI books on the assassination not here. It happens that for what this publication wants those are ideal. It also happens that neither can be replaced. Were this not enough, one is not mine.

From the time you left with those files nobody except Howard has been into them. I took one look and got sick. It took countless hours just straightening them out. I did this as I had to use any one, working both sides a little. Hundreds of the edges of papers are shredded. The first time Jim was here I showed him what remained of this wreckage. Ambitious as you may have been to have this material and late at night as you kept going over it, leaving it like this was worse than abusive.

How to find that with all the trouble I had hauling what you returned by public transportation - and I can't remember how many times the package broke - you still have not returned it all and I find myself in need of it when there isn't time for you to get it back to me in time for this use that is important to me is a bit more than much.

The amount of time ~~to~~ took to refill what you did return was still another abuse.

The timing of discovering this is even worse. I was able to work around these gaps with other materials, but it took time I didn't have and energy I haven't yet restored. (But not on Bolden.)

After all the times I've complained about this to discover the card with your initials in that folder and to recall nobody else I've loaned anything to since the disaster you left here when I am as sick as I am and try to function, try to do what can be done to offset all the whoring around, and there is so much of that! - is oppressive. I can't bend and get up enough to catch up on the accumulated unfiled of the past 10 weeks. If you want to know what a good day is, Tuesday I was able to walk 10 blocks with only two sit-down rests. And that is the best I've done.

There is no end to this kind of mistreatment. In fairness to you I have to acknowledge this. But that does not diminish the dismay or oppressiveness. I'll never know what took what and didn't return it. The most recent, to give you a local reading, was by the Abzug subcommittee. I've written three times for what I took from my files and loaned them (I can't stand so I didn't make copies. I have to move or keep my legs up.) Yet their hearing was entirely Jim's work and mine, uncredited. I spent quite a bit of time with them After we knew I'm ill. They asked Jim to prepare a statement, and he did letting other work go. They discover that his statement, honest and factual, does not permit the deception that Bella et al did the rest of the work so they bang the gavel and his isn't heard. In fact, after the way this ~~xxx~~ bunch and Schweiker spoke to me I took a private room so they could confer in security. (The only good it did was with Lee Whittan. They never came for the position paper they asked of me and Schweiker is off on his own insanities.) But real help when Jim and I need it? Never available. The rest of the world is too busy or too worried...I hate to have to write you this way at this time but will you please make a careful check and return whatever you may have? When you are doing it think of the time it took to get what you had refilled. Sincerely,