

Dear Jerry,

Tuesday, 7/31/01

In your Sunday letter you say you are seething inside. That you could seeth was easier for you because you recalled less than you should have and you did not ask yourself how I could or did feel.

At the end of my letter of 7/25 I suggested that it was past time for you to be thinking of some things I then noted. This less than honest "temperate" letter of yours reflects that either you are not capable of that or are unwilling to do it.

You give bobtailed accounts of your moving all my assassination books to the basement and of the matter of the original manuscripts and other writings from that white bookshelf in the basement. What you do say and is the fact is that I had for many years been asking you to go over what was on those shelves with me, at least nine years because it has been that long since I went down to the basement and you never <sup>c</sup>one did that. Always too busy when I raised that matter and aside from the fact that they were the original manuscripts, they held original documentation and original pictures. There also the fact that I believed much of what was there could be discarded and if it was done when I could participate it could save either much time at Hood or prevent the disposal of what should not be and as did happen with the books. It was not what your letter indicates, a simple and recent one-time matter. I kept trying to get you to do that over a period of years. You did not, not once, make any effort to do what I believed we should have done until you wanted what was there, in the sealed package labelled "Whitewash II." When you picked that up you found it had been opened and all the pictures had been taken. "Only possible" because you did not do what you obviously should have done.

As soon as I learned of this disappearance, knowing that Dave had a use for that photo, as you also did. I asked Dave to ask AP's Wide World photos to provide him with a print made from the original negative, which I'd spent a year getting AP to find and preserve. The first and so far as I know the only print made from it was made for me and I used it in WW II and filed it with the original ms.

You alone <sup>are</sup> responsible for its disappearance, and you did not even move these things on those bookshelves when before I was able to leave the nursing home I discovered the theft and I told you about

promptly.

On the matter of your moving my assassination books to the basement, I have no doubt that those you say told you that was what I wanted but if they did they misunderstood and if you had give than matter any thought at all you would have realized that was not possible. Once I no longer had access to my records in the basement and more, after they would be taken to Hood, I would, without those books not be able to check what I had written about them & even had a source for getting names straight, leave long for continuing that writing. It was crippling and it is apparent that you gave it no thought and did not speak to me about it. I was less than a half hour away and I was also as close as your phone. But you did not care and you had forgotten that I had spoken to you often enough about it. That also, before you corrupted it, too, was in your interest. What it really was, and I repeated this to you often enough, was my inviting you to get and use any of those books you did not have and give to Hood when you had no further needs for them. That way you would not be delayed in being able to use them until the entire archive was straightened out but but duplicates unnecessarily.

These are the actualities of both of those matter and neither can be recognized from your self-serving versions. Both matters are years long, began years ago, and for all those years you did not a thing. What in addition to the only original Altgens and the enlarged-  
ments and the Oswale photos used in WW II is missing <sup>do</sup> I, not know but whatever else is missing from those packages is because of what do not <sup>not</sup> get <sup>you</sup> your refusal to do the simple thing I had saked of you and aside from the usefulness to the archives you needed for your own work. But you did not actually need it until you got to it in your work so the hell with anyone else's use of it, nothing meant anything to you other than your own work. Which you thought about only narrowly and selfishly, as I mentioned in my other letter.

It now is not easy for me to read while I type so I'm responding from memory. I read you letter as soon as I got home from dialysis and was so upset by it that I was ~~was~~ not able to work the rest of the day and it gave me a poor and shortened night's sleep. But after I address what I remember I will see if there is more I should add. But again I tell you that you should give this <sup>more</sup> and hire like it some real thought, not jusy to cook up what you things is a defense in the form or an inappropriate offndr.

Now with regard to the xeroxing of the evidentiary hearing. ~~xxxx~~ when you agreed to take that to Staples I told you that the folders, all of which were <sup>num</sup>bered and dated, needed to be put in order before any copying, a simple job for one not with my handicaps, no space for spreading it out. You said you would do that but you did not. You also did not see to it that <sup>what</sup> ~~was~~ was separate would be separate in the copies. These are things normally done <sup>but</sup> ~~by~~ when we do not know who will do the copying everyone should specify that be done. Along with copies of the <sup>f</sup>olders, which would identify what followed. I was upset when I saw that solid mass of white, 14 days of <sup>am</sup> testimony, all in one mass, <sup>o</sup> not a break of any kind in it. I tried to do the checking and the separating but it was too much for me. However, I did see that you had not done the simple, preliminary thing of putting those folders in the order indicated on them. And that, in addition, did scare me, How would we know if any of the rest was out of order or if what I also feared, some extraneous matter had gotten mixed up in it? And if and when the people from the Congress ~~turn~~ turn them off by giving them the irrelevant or by giving them what was not in the proper order? What would they think of people who could not do a simple thing like having pages in order, especially when they ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> numbered, or who would dump this added work on the <sup>my</sup>?

You said something indicating that I spoke improperly to someone at the library. I do not believe that is a fair version. When I heard from Clay - and for the first time - <sup>h</sup> that those books taken to the cell, or when they should not have been and some were put up for sale and he got a few, I had not been told that any had gone to Hood and none should have. Samet was not in so I spoke to the woman who <sup>answ</sup> answered the phone and told her that putting any of those books up for sale was a mistake and to please remove any that remained. I then <sup>a</sup> spoke to you, which you do not recall, and asked you to tell her not to dispose of anything without checking. You say she is the ~~sk~~ ultimate authority. How in the world can she know what she has to know when she is ignorant of the entire matter? But if there were a need to get rid of any of them, and she was not in a position to make that judgement, they were worth quite a bit if sold to a dealer.

And, you have not yet told me if I spoke to her about this, about her in effect throwing away the copies of the books that were the

basis of so many that I wrote, that are highlighted including what I used and did not use in the writing, information that should have been highlighted for the future.

You asked me why I did not ask you to bring those books back up from the basement. Should I have when you did not recognize your boner and offer to? Should I have when for about a decade I'd been asking you to go over what was in the white bookshelves in the basement and you never did? When in other matters you are the absent-minded professor? One example is when I had an emergency need for an antibiotic in connection with dental work a need of many <sup>years</sup>. The pharmacy had given Katy the wrong one, one that makes me sick, and when I discovered that she was gone and not available. So I asked you if you would be in that area and when you said you would I asked you to return what was wrong and get what was right. Only you did not take the wrong medicine back.

Including in recent years you have several times refused to do a simple thing I asked of you, at least once getting some medicine for me. You said you were too busy. This is not the same as when you had to take Barb to a doctor or had to go yourself. You said, and it is your word, you were too busy.

In all the years we have known each other I have never told you that. Or Dave. Or any other friend. I was never too ill for any seminar and in fact we had one the night before I went to Johns Hopkins the night before the preliminary surgery preparatory to the heart surgery. Only recently I said aside what I was doing, and it was several <sup>things</sup> ~~things~~ I'll be lucky not to get mixed up, to read several chapters for Dave and make a few suggestions I think may speed his book to its editor, and several times recently when you told me that you were rewriting them I offered to read them if you wanted me to.

When I've been ill and feeble for as long as I have and you use the grocery which includes my pharmacy, when have you offered to get medicines for me if I needed them? You have several times when I asked you but did you once think of asking me in advance so the medicines could be ready? Did you once offer to do any grocery shopping for me when it meant no extra trip for you? So there was more in my mind when I did not ask you to bring those books back up. Beside which, having a <sup>state</sup> ~~special~~ shortage, I'll now have to find a place for what was <sup>out</sup> ~~out~~ where these books were. And they've have to be gone over to eliminate other than assassination books.

I have reread your letter. The first knowledge I had that any of the books you took to the cellar was no longer there was when Clay told <sup>me</sup> he had gotten some held not to be necessary! <sup>by the way!</sup> Until then I did not know they were ~~xxx~~ at the library and I was shocked that it was done and more so, that it was done without a word to me. Or, after the fact was the first time I knew so how can you tell yourself or me that all I needed to do was ask you to return them to my office.

After that was impossible, the first time I knew a thing about ~~the~~ what you had done other than take them to the cellar.

I was oblivious of the fact that Clay had gotten the bulk of them and mailed them home until after the fact. And now you say the bulk of them and earlier you said one or two books from a single box.

I had, and you should know I had no added "opportunity to 'correct' my mistake." Self-serving and untrue. You never told me a thing about it. I learned it from Clay when he mentioned it in conversation after the fact.

I do not dispute what you say, that Clay donated the books to the library, but did it not occur to either of you to consult me about that? Ultimately the library would have gotten them all but you both knew I was still working and that what I was working on is those books. But I repeat, all of this was without my knowledge and I learned about it only by accident and after it was too late for me to do a thing. Except what I did, and you misrepresent that. What I told the library was that those books should not have gone there and if any remained on the for-sale shelves to please get them and return them to me. That I'm sure of, and it is no accusations, as you call it. I also asked you to talk to Samet about that and to consult me before anything like that is done again because none of them is in a position to know whether or not they are important. If I remember correctly, Charles kept all Meagher's books.

On Waketh, which you have confused and do not mention what Clay had told me or the state of shock I was in when I saw that big and unseparated mass of paper that was the 14 days of hearings transcript, some time ago, after Katie told me I did not have a copy of either Waketh or the 2d epilogue, I asked Clay for copies. It is my recollection that two weeks before any of this he told me he'd send them the Tuesday after the Saturday of that conversation. I think I also asked him for a copy of Waketh but I'm not sure on that. I am on the epilogue because a friend to whom I owe much asked for it.

You may not realize how shocked I was that a grown man had not made the obviously needed arrangement for the individual days or ~~trans~~ transcripts be kept as individual days in the xeroxing, how ~~overwhelmed~~ overwhelmed I was by that great mass of undivided paper and much more shocked I was to see that it was not in correct order, which I discovered by accident. Now if you, a grown man, when I asked you to put those folder in correct order, a simple matter with a table, why in the world should I not have feared the worst? Especially after you had done all you had done with those books (when all I'd asked you to do, ever, ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> to see if you wanted any of them). When you had <sup>for</sup> years not gone over what was on these books ~~leaves~~ <sup>leaves</sup> with me as I'd asked, when I asked you to return the wrong medicine when you ~~picked~~ <sup>picked</sup> the correct ~~of~~ medicine up and these simple things you ~~did~~ <sup>did</sup> not do, What you later say about the mass of hearings copies was not true when I first saw them. I did ask you to buy the binder clips and ~~you~~ <sup>you</sup> did put them on later, but you did not ~~do~~ <sup>do</sup> that until I asked it and I faced exactly what I describe, that mass of unseparated paper.

Now when Clay told me that he was ~~sent~~ <sup>sent</sup> things for me to you and I had gotten none of that from you, I did worry that the Waketh epilogue, which is not all that long, might have been mixed up in them. Perhaps I should not have ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> I did. And I submit that your ~~real~~ record, which is in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> foregoing, not in your self-serving and selective version in your letter, ~~justified~~ <sup>justified</sup> my worry. There was no "connection." I was afraid, as perhaps I should not have ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup>, that somehow the epilogue was in that unseparated mass. And that it was an unseparated mass was your doing in not asking the obvious, that days be copied as and separated as days. My god The work it would be, unnecessary work to try to go over these 14 days of testimony with them all in one massive stack!

If you were talking about Specter v. Specter when you told me that the copies seemed to start several times, you did not tell me that and what I was talking about and what worried me was all those hearings in that one great stack.

~~But~~ I can accept the fact that we all get things screwed up, and I am well aware that I now do that more than I ever did. But none of this is my screwing up, as you have rewritten the fact so you can tell yourself it was my fault. When you never even ~~told~~ <sup>told</sup> me in

any way ~~of~~ asked me about <sup>nutty</sup> that really ~~nitty~~ thing you did in removing  
 from where I had access to it to where I had no access to the one  
 thing that, to your knowledge, I was working on and could work on.  
 In this case, whether or not you can bring yourself to face it, you  
 did all the screwing up and as I told you, it was what we would not  
 ordinarily expect for a high-school kind. Nothing complicated,  
 nothing difficult, nothing unusual. All it required was minimum  
 attention and keeping in mind what was to be done.

I have told you several times of what you refer to as the state  
 of the Ray hearings. On ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> when you said when you were <sup>here</sup> ~~hear~~ that you  
 did not understand. When you again said you did not understand and  
 I started to explain again you just rushed out. And I have gone  
 into it above. What you best says has nothing to do with the mess  
 you brought back from Staples. It is what you did after I called  
 that mess to your attention. I asked you to buy those binder clips  
 and to separate each day and you did that after you delivered that  
 mess to me. What you write is after the fact, not what you presented  
 to me what you brought from Staples, and even putting them in those  
 boxes was not your idea. I asked you to do it. You say you chose  
 small boxes in the event I had to move them and you say you placed  
 them on the floor, out of the way. The fact is that I asked you to  
 place them not on the floor but specified to put them on the stool  
 next to which you put the. I am not to life more than 25 pounds ~~not~~  
 not from a bending position. I am not even to get into the position  
 from which I would have to lift from the floor, not even with noth-  
 in my hands.

Your concluding paragraph does not state the truth. I never asked  
 you or anyone else to clear the shelves in my study. Or in the living  
 room, which you also purged. You say that "after hearing over and  
 over again that I had little motivation to get into the collection in  
 the basement. I was somewhat gun-shy..." There was no such connection.  
 What was on those white shelves in the basement is what I started  
 talking you about about when I could not go to the basement ~~of~~  
 safely, as stated above. It was much later, and not in any sense asking  
 you to clear the shelves in my office, that I asked you to take many  
 you wanted. How in the world you can have talked yourself into the  
 belief that I wanted to have inaccessible the only things I could work  
 on and to your knowledge I was working on I cannot understand but it

never happened and thinking that it did is not rational. It makes no sense at all. You have made it up senselessly. All I ever asked you to take from the shelves in my office and in the living room was any book you did not have and would want to use before it got lost in the mass at Hood.

Can you believe that I would quit? ~~W~~ That is what you have made up because those missing books are all I had for sources, other than my own and the 26 (One of which seems to be missing) ~~and~~ without them I cannot even <sup>check</sup> recall names or the spelling of names. You have not given this any thought or you'd not come up with such a squizzer. It makes no sense at all, besides the fact that it is not true.

I notice you <sup>c</sup> make <sup>d</sup> no reference to the now-gone original Altgens picture along with the enlargements I had made from it. Or the other missing pictures.

Which <sup>was</sup> your fault and what was on those white shelves is what I <sup>was</sup> talking to you about for about a decade.

And none of this was in my personal interest or to my personal benefit. It was for you, Dave, tother friends and for the people in general.

I tell you as I did before, you should try to come to understand what you do, not make excuses <sup>y</sup>, because in many ways, I think, you are different than you were and you do too many things that make no sense, things on which you pay no attention at all. Like the ungodly mess you brought from Staples. If you had asked them they'd have put each day of the evidentiary hearings in a bag or, I'm sure, a file folder. I'm surprised that they did not use binder clips. In my experience there was never a time in which they did not keep separate what they got separate, with bags or with clips.

The past is past but in your own interest please try to think this through without deceiving yourself.

One place to begin and perhaps to come to some understanding of what you did that was wrong is to ask yourself when you did not discuss with me anything at all about <sup>o</sup> what you did with those books when you have to know that the explanation <sup>fin</sup> that you now give makes no sense at all. Or why for about a decade you just refused to go over what had to be gone over at Hood, when doing it here was easier, faster and had some elements of protection in it.

I have a mess and you made it. If you did not understand that you were making it when made it, as you should have and would have if you had given it any thought, you ought to be able to look back on it, realize what you have done and not try to explain it away by blaming me for it.

Harold