

2/15 Dear Jerry and Howard, You have recently complained about some of my interperate letters, saying they are, in the case then in point, counter-productive. I replied citing Ecclesiastes, my point being that each case is a separate one, each requires a deperate approach, and with any one, the approach that seems proper may vary from time to time. I do not, of course, allege that in each case I am right to use the kind of approach and/or language I have. I believe I did invoke Al Smith and his dictum, let's look at the record. It is with thins in mind, not to argue but so that you may come to understand that you don't fish for minnows with shark-hooks or make loge with a club, that sometimes a useful purpose can be served by what may seem like a wrong approach. I send this to Jerry for him to forward to Howard. I could not make enough copies for my own needs. This is the only extra one I have. I did use new carbon paper, which although new and of good brand is not very good. It is, therefore, not only the best copy I have to spare, it is the only one. It covers six appeal and I have to keep a copy in the file for each. It is the direct consequence of one of those interperate letters of which I sent a copy to the appeals office of GSA. He read my letter with some dismay and phoned me. We spoke for a half hour. He, like all bureaucrats, hates work. But he also made some remarkable admissions, only some of which are referred to, like not even knowing there is a contract between his agency and the estate. Or even the regulations under which he, personally, works. He even admitted he phoned before reading all of my letter! And he so dislikes work that he would rather have me file suit. Nice record? Well, we were not fighting and only at a few times real pointed. When he objected to the length of the letters, I responded that there were simple ways of eliminating them: comply with the law and regulations, for the Archives not to lie, and not to address to me letters designed for the making of a false and self-serving record that I might later have to face in court, for this required of me the making of my own record. He says my correspondence is the largest in the entire GSA history! I said I also regretted having to take such time, but that unless he was familiar with it, he could not pass judgement on it. It got through to him. He solicited a list of everything I have been denied. I told him this was not only a needless burden, such lists being required within the Archives, but at this point beyond my physical capability. We compromised by my promising to send him today a few specific appeals. I think, on having suffered the poor copy and reading it with care, you will find that it has the capability of educating the appeals machinery, whether or not it does (which is worth the effort), and just might, in some cases, succeed. It took me four hours, now painful hours. You can make your own evaluations, if not now, later, and I do not solicit them or argument. I close with an avuncular note: the weak never win a fight by countering an attack. For survival, the weak but have the initiative. And for success, even more so. If this involves other risks, with me they are calculated.

Think you are aware of this, so I send FYI
Please return. H