

1/31/69

Mr. Arthur W. Frice,
The Arthur Frice Foundation
225 West 34 St.,
New York 1, N.Y.

Dear Arthur,

In the midst of what I think may be my most significant work to date, I stop to write you in what you may regard as an undiplomatic fashion. I will address you frankly, perhaps a poor way to ask a small favor.

It has been more than a year since I have heard from you. For a man professing an interest in the work I do and who is to be the most conspicuous single beneficiary of it, this is a strange silence. For a man with love of country, the integrity of his society, the future of freedom - may I suggest even its possibility - this silence is not what I would expect.

A long time ago I told you I would give you my files for your archives. You indicated you wanted this. I have even refused to sell copies of the limited edition of the first book still in my possession so you can have the most complete archive. I've bought filing cabinets I have yet to pay for, for whatever I "buy" is added to my indebtedness, so I could preserve those things that in the future can have value but are of no immediate interest to me.

I think you really have no concept of the value of what you will be getting, nor of the cost to me in acquiring it. I also think you have no concept of the magnitude of the work I have already done, no glimmer of its genuine significance. In the history of organized societies there is little like it and nothing in the modern world. If you have any doubt of this, you need only accept my standing invitation to come down and see what I have. (This is the closest depot. I have also duplicated everything, more than once, outside of my possession.)

In the face of this, you have been silent; knowing I need help urgently you have offered none. I cannot understand this of you because you are in a position to give that help. Right now I have two books ready for the offset camera. With my indebtedness now about 140,000, I cannot go further in debt to bring them out. I have others in various stages of development. I ask help not for myself, not to reduce my debt, but to make the work available. Regardless of any complications you may have, I think eventually this will help you very uncomfortable. All of that money I spent to acquire those things that will become yours and you have done nothing to facilitate it? If you and people like you who can do not do what you certainly know you must to meet your own obligations to our country, then it is in really bad shape.

The favor I ask is for more of the middle NR sheets. To use all out of them and my wife has just started typing a new manuscript. I think they come 300 in a package. Two would last a while. If we do not have them we'll have the much greater cost of xeroxing, which is high here, for the indexing copy. Thanks.

C
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P
Y

My fatigue is omnipresent. I've slowed down to about an 18-hour day, still seven days a week. My mind seems unaffected, but my body feels so old; I stay tired. My wife, too, has aged and has lost much of her endurance. She has gone back to work for a few months so that the little food we eat will not add to our indebtedness. However, this partially reduces what she can do to help me.

During the summer I decided that if I reduced the excess weight I carry around I might feel less tired. I've lost 30 pounds, but there is otherwise no change. My health seems good enough.

It has been much more than 14 months since we were in touch because so much has happened since then.

Turn on, Arthur; please turn on.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

C
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P
Y

1/31/69

Mr. Arthur W. Price.
The Arthur Price Foundation
225 West 34 St.,
New York 1, N.Y.

Dear Arthur,

In the midst of what I think may be my most significant work to date, I stop to write you in what you may regard as an undiplomatic fashion. I will address you frankly, perhaps a poor way to ask a small favor.

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In the face of this, you have been silent; knowing I need help urgently you have offered none. I cannot understand this of you because you are in a position to give that help. Right now I have two books ready for the offset camera. With my indebtedness now about \$40,000, I cannot go further in debt to bring them out. I have others in various stages of development. I ask help not for myself, not to reduce my debt, but to make the work available. Regardless of any complications you may have, I think eventually this will make you very uncomfortable. All of that money I spent to acquire those things that will become yours and you have done nothing to facilitate it? If you and people like you who can do not do what you certainly know you must to meet your own obligations to our country, then it is in really bad shape.

The favor I ask is for more of the middle NCR sheets. We are all out of them and my wife has just started typing a new manuscript. I think they come 500 in a package. Two would last a while. If we do not have them we'll have the much greater cost of xeroxing, which is high here, for the indexing copy. Thanks.

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