Dear Jim,

6/11/71

Ed Kabak called me within minutes of getting my letter this morning. We spoke for a half hour and then, about 11:45, he called again. Each time about a half hour. At the [illegible] of the second call I had to leave. I returned a little after 2:30 and tried to phone you and when there was no answer, Bud. He was due back in a few minutes more than a quarter of an hour ago, as I write/

I'd have called you after the first call because there seems to have been no urgent purpose in the second but I thought I'd wait until after the mail came and you were more likely to be awake and ready for your day.

He says he neither took nor looked at either files. He sounded persuasive. I suppose that if the name meant nothing to him he would not remember it but he also said he had never heard of Strader or Smith. Yet he had told me that this trip his chief interest would be in nuts, and I do not find it easy to believe he has read Sprague's stuff and other such rubbish without having ever heard of Strader.

I told him that at least two tapes were missing and he knew nothing about them.

I was quite forthright with him in telling him that the alternative was uncomfortable. I broke off with Jerry before the Weeht stupidities. They were, as I recall, in early 1971. I'm not taking the time to check because I'll have to leave soon to draft some letters for our Chinese friend. If I am wrong on the date then Jerry is an alternative. But since Jerry wandered through my files the only other one (of whom I know) is Ed. This would then mean, as I explained to him, that there has to have been an "entry." I have noted many signs of them and have made notes of some. (I have, for example, found tiny washers on the floor and can't account for them. On the rug, rather, where they could fall soundless)

But what makes a professional job hard to believe is the leaving of the one Kevin tape. It is the one that was in the box in which they are prominently stacked. I have noted the story on this separately.

The possibilities are quite limited: Ed, who denies it in a persuasive tone of voice; Jerry if I had not broken off with him before I got the last of the Strader stuff; and "sinister forces."

I do rush too much when there is no one here. I can be careless. I can misfile and do. But from the time I took the last Strader stuff to Weng's office I have had no occasion to look into that file. Nobody has ever mentioned it to me. And this means that suddenly a half-dozen things are mysterious disappearances.

Some I could attribute to haste and carelessness. All is too much against the odds.

The last time I noted something like this was about a month ago, or about a week after you phoned me from Houston.

Moreover, I am sure that I added a note of when I gave Hunter copies. And I think it could be assumed that I'd given you copies. So I see no purpose in stealing it except possibly pointed harrassment.

If it is harrassment, maybe in time it will turn up someplace where it has no business being.

Anyway, I thought you should know.

Best,