

5/20/71

Dear Mr. Duberstein,

If the enclosed has any value to those concerned, and I really can't tell, it might have reached them a bit sooner if, on the occasion I tried to speak to you, you had given me a fraction of the minute during which you told me all about how you have a monopoly on being busy. I think if you are not still the world's busiest man and take the time to read this, you will understand that in much less than a minute I could have told you about it.

That was the day the papers reported the activities of a Department of Justice lawyer of identically this uncommon name. He was then threatening the Harrisburg case people with grand-jury subpoenas if they did not make statement voluntarily.

Today's ~~new~~ paper reports his activity in the current "conspiracy" case. I presume neither you nor the Congressman are too busy to have some slight concern about such prosecutions. Or not sufficiently alert to understand that this man was charged with what J. Edgar The Indispensable regards as one of the world's most terrible crimes. Not quite as bad as being an unclassified employee who works for peace on her own time, though.

Before you were born there were causes to which men devoted themselves. Some of us are still alive and still devote ourselves to such efforts as making a decent society. If it is difficult now, it was more difficult and much more lonely then. When I worked on the Hill, it was not uncommon for me not to be able to leave the office or to get in bed for as much as five days at a time. Until a year ago, when I had to slow down some, for six years I doubt if I averaged four hours a night sleep. Last night I worked until after 11. I have been working since 4:30 this morning. And I have turned 58.

Aside from age, there are other differences between us. You get a salary, I have had no regular income for seven years. My work has indebted me for the rest of the time I can hope to live. Even a postage stamp is a problem for me.

But please, do stay busy, for what you do is important, I mean this quite seriously. No hidden crack. Perhaps as the years wear and bear, you will learn that you have no monopoly on being busy, devotion to principle or decent concerns. Perhaps you may even have time to consider whether there are some things you may not understand, some issues that are not as simple or isolated as they may seem. Some that you may regret not having concerned yourself with. Some perhaps more basic to what kept you busy than you have stopped long enough to consider.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg