

JW, PH, HR,
MF, JL

1/7/72

Mr. Burke Marshall
Yale University Law School
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Mr. Marshall,

If, as an endless series of abandonments of trust and a persistent refusal to learn the rudiments of what you are into persuade, it is your fixed purpose to establish yourself as the American Judas, the urologist you are about to piddle on the country and on history ought accomplish this purpose.

It is my sincere hope that you are young enough to have many years ahead in which you can live with that which you have done and that you have just made possible, more than enough years to recall in exquisitely fine detail every bit of it and all its consequences.

It is my sincere regret that I do not have the influence to give you all the help in your endeavor that is your undoubted due. If ever anyone richly deserved the future that should be yours and all the memories it should hold, you are that person.

With such trusted friends as you, who has need of enemies? Those who have trusted you as friend will soon regret they were ^{not} blessed with only recognized enemies.

Treachery, too, is your forte. It has not been many months since you assured a mutual friend that you would not, under any circumstances, do that which you have now done. The consequence is that I could not do what otherwise I would have tried to alert those who have placed their honor and their future in your hands.

You should recall that I am the first to have asked for access to that which was transferred to the National Archives, before its exact nature and contents were known. Thereafter, I sought access to a more limited part. You denied me early as you did late. I believe, although I am not a lawyer and you are, that you may have gone a bit too far in this, as your noble associates inside the government also may have, that in denying me what I believe are my rights under law, regulation and contract you may have assumed a personal responsibility for any damage done me. It seems to me that doing other than is required to fulfill a function may be held to waive the protections of that function. I may be wrong, but as of this moment, I am inclined to find out.

I have never believed you drafted that contract. If I am correct, I may also be correct in my belief that you also do not understand it. In time, perhaps this, too, will change.

In any event, I believe I am entitled to not less than equality of access with all others, with my credentials, be they experts on urine or news. The immediate single prerequisite seems to be sycophancy. If I do not have it, I believe I will be denied a measurable right, resulting in damage.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg