

14K, JW
6/23/72

Dear Mary,

If your long silence has puzzled me, I have been silent about it. I am aware that in the lives of each of us there can be such complications that others cannot anticipate or perhaps comprehend them.

I knew you were in Washington and did not phone.

While this letter deals with you and what you have not done that you said you would and should have long before this, that is not its immediate cause.

Late last night I learned of the ultimate perfidy. Of the three people thus far involved, I know you know two and have been close enough to them for me to say nothing that now not to prejudice you. When I say "thus far involved" I am not referring to fact but to the state of my present knowledge. I am without doubt that the number is greater.

One of those who has betrayed my trust who is well known to you is one of whom I would not have conceived it possible. The cost to me may be great. The cost to what enough of us seek may be greater.

You may remember that when you were here you chided me for my openness. That is now going to have to end. With almost but not quite everyone. I wish I had heeded your advice. While that would have been too late for the present problem, who knows what others like it may yet come up?

It has been more than a half year since I let you borrow the only copies I had of two files I had finally gotten in New Orleans after enormous and costly effort. I had not read them but was aware that they were congenial to your political beliefs I do not share. Such things have never bothered me, as you should have learned. You have, even with serious problems, ^{Dad} had more than enough time to copy and return them. Therefore, I ask for their immediate return. If you have not yet copied them, I will arrange it for you after I get them and I will in advance give you an estimate of the cost. My purpose is not to deny you copies. It is, rather, to start tightening things here, a change I must make and will not delay. You were also going to transcribe certain confidential notes of which I made a tape. If you have, you have not sent them. If you have not, I'd appreciate the tape and the respecting of the confidence. As you must know, I appreciated your and Buck's great kindnesses and I had no secrets from you. I deeply regret that you appear not to have used the Archives I then opened for us. If you have, you have not told me or shared their yield with me. In fact, you have said absolutely nothing about this or anything else.

If I seem sharp it is not personal. I have suffered one of the greater disappointments. It troubles me much.

On the other hand, if I have given you offense, it was not my intent. If I have you have my apologies. Neither you nor Buck could have been kinder. I do appreciate it.

I have heard nothing from or about Arch. You know my views on his behavior. This is quite separate from his health. I hope it is good and that he continues to improve. Please tell him this. May it be a long time before it happens, but may it also be the first to take it with him. His wealth has and will do no good on earth. Perhaps it will in heaven!

Please package those files securely and insure them. I cannot replace them for the maximum insurance.

Sincerely,