

1/22/70

Dear Bud,

Here are John's "response" to the letters of which you have a copy and of my today's answer. I am sending copies to Gary and Dick only, for as long as possible I want to avoid knowledge of his dishonesty becoming public or generally known. Although from his letter I know he will not be home when it might get there, I am mailing it this evening, with this.

Because he says he expects to see you, I am also sending it to you so you will, I most sincerely hope, be on guard and mention nothing of what I have told you to him. He is off on an ego-trip the likes of which we have only once seen, which is saying something.

You will not that although he will be only about 45 minutes from me, he has neither asked to see me nor accepted the invitation I extended him to see what else I have, again on his pledge of honorable behavior. He intends, without reasonable doubt, to try and steal it, too.

He may not realize he is off on an ego trip. I am no expert on egos or strange people. Or, as I would imagine, not being basically a crook, he has created a more decent picture in his own mind. But I am past the point of making distinctions. When I see that I have sacrificed so much for so needlessly jeopardized, when I consider how this has forced me and more, my wife, to live, the enormity of the debt I have accumulated and the impoverishment it has forced upon me, to the point where I must salvage paper that should be discarded and use carbon after it is discarded, I can accept no more. For me to permit this kind of thievery, especially after he gave his word, is to engage in self-emasculation. Neither it nor the other things will I do. He will use any or my work at his peril, and he little knows me if he does not understand that it can be a real peril.

Because he has yet to make any kind of contribution to what so many of us have worked so hard for, and especially because he makes no secret that he really believes I am trying to steal his nothing from him, actually saying it to others, who are stunned by it, I will have absolutely no misgivings about being a witness on his motive, which I conceive can be a legitimate defense to part of his suit, and I can and will do so in the certain belief it will be constructive. The last thing he wants is cheap sensation or self-seeking, personal glory. I believe it is right and proper for sensitive evidence that would be misused to be denied those who would so abuse it. My own record is clear on this, as you should know from what I have shown you and the excellent publicity you know I have avoided for this very reason.

I am hopeful that, as it should, this will reach you tomorrow. I will still come to your office as soon as I finish depositing the lab samples on Friday.

Hastily,