

10/26/71

Dear Bud,

Your note of 10/23 suggests Werdig at his worst. After clubbing a man with a baseball bat it is hardly funny or in any way meaningful to ask if he has a headache. If you get some conscience balm from describing my vigorous objections to your persistent breaking of your word and your continuing refusal to shut the mouths of your crazier nuts when they endlessly misuse my material, my "childish paranoia", enjoy, enjoy. ~~By~~ ^{By} some day you will, inevitably come face to face with what you have been doing, and then I wouldn't swap my bankruptcy for your wealth at that cost.

"Jim assured me that he had returned all your material some time ago", you say. Once, when I saw your file list after Sprague found it necessary to make the first public proclamation of his insanity on this subject, Jim and I spent perhaps 1/2 hour spot checking a couple of files. That is all. Contrary to what you represent him as saying, on the occasions I have raised the question with him, he has told me what I can understand and believe, that he doesn't have the authority.

If you had kept your word to begin with, none of this nastiness would now confront us. You well recall that I refused to have anything to do with that band of zanies and crooks and incompetents you thought would lead to money other than yours. I was, unfortunately, as right about this as about the prospects of what you visualized. However, when I did offer to cooperate with you on a personal basis, it was with the distinct understanding that nothing from me would find its way into the committee's files. Had this not happened, there would not now be this problem.

With all I can't find time to do, do you think I want to go over all those files of yours with you? I started working this a.m. at 12:30. A.M.! Do you think I keep such hours at my age for jokes like you crack? I don't want to go over your files, and I have neither the time nor the feeling that I should. But for two years I've been trying to get you to do it or have it done, and you always manage not to and then to pretend innocence. I expect you to do it or have it done thoroughly. If there is any question, I will take the time to go over whoever does this for you sets aside, and this means all copies. I've tolerated the last of the ruining of some of our best prospects by the stupidities over which I have had to maintain a public silence.

With regard to my extensive Archives file, Jim should be able to segregate what you now require, and I do trust him and his judgement on this.

But I ask you to consider what the meaningless cost of duplicating all of that was to me in money and time. Why did I do it? Because you gave a promise and again broke your word. Or changed you mind. Is there a difference after I waste all that time and what for me is a substantial amount of money?

If I've been silent about other things, like the Cook piece in The Nation and other of his sycophancies for which you may not know, it is not because I am entirely unaware of them. Perhaps it is foolish of me to hope that at some point you will look back on all of this and reflect before it is too late. If you believe that kind of stuff it is worse than if you don't. But you really should be trying to sift things out and to understand yourself. Reread some of that awful trash and ask yourself how you could have said it - or what you will if confronted with it under embarrassing circumstances even a non-lawyer can conceive as possible.

You also agreed to tell your zanies they are not to use anything they got from your files without clearing it first. The letter you showed me was unacceptable. There has been but silence since.

Sincerely,