

Ed,

6/21/76

In what I wrote you earlier today I was excessively considerate and generous.

It now turns out that you are a rotten, avaricious, totally untrustworthy miserable bastard.

I discovered this only by accident, because you can't even be a good crook when one trusts you implicitly.

I had need for some of the accumulation of papers of recent date I was not able to file because your ~~stomach~~ stubborn refusal to be a human being forced me from my own office. In looking for them I found some of what for all practical purposes you stole and left other than where I had it.

I refer to those records I told you about in confidence, showed you and explained to you and said I would have copied and sent to you as I copied this large file in sequence, from low to high numbers. This was not enough for your sickleickickgreed.

Now was merely stealing it enough.

You had to, as usual deface these pages some of which, as I let you know, I might in a rush need for facsimile reproduction. You also, wretched man, know how urgent any income is for me and the cost of acquiring these and other records, a cost you are too damned cheap to incur when you can impose on me to cheat and steal.

Was this not enough you are so contemptuous of anyone else and of any standard or concept of common decency you didn't even take time to put the papers back together in proper order. Now in addition to all the other time you have wasted for me I have to take this time.

I also told you I was not unstapling any of my originals until they were coded and why.

But you were afraid there might be a tiny letter or symbol or mark of some kind in the stapled corner of one of these pages you might not be able to steal by merely bending them back. So, when I have no stapler capable of that thickness, you tore these pages apart anyway, deforming them that way, too, and when you were not able to staple them after several efforts the effects of which are visible you merely didn't give a damn, knowing you'd be away before I'd discover it and masked it all by using the spring clip with which I had attached my note to the editor. In fact, damn, you even deface that.

Whether you have only an insatiable greed and a compulsion to steal and whether you intend some use is now immaterial. I take and from you have taken too much. This scars past that.

You leave me no choice. I herewith demand the return of every scrap of paper you have obtained from me whether with my permission or without. I expect you to spend some time daily to accomplish this. I also demand your written assurances that you have done this and that regardless of whether or not you could have obtained it from some other source you will not ever, in your book or any other way, make any use of any nature of anything and everything you have obtained from me. I want this assurance, in writing, before you will be able to go through your files and make the return I ask.

I am informing you of this by a carbon. I will also speak to him when I can. I am not going to drop this or forget the unconscionable humiliations you have in your lack of concern for anything, except this income greed needlessly inflicted on me, I am not a lawyer. You are. It strikes me that without asking any kind of reward this constitutes larceny after the fact. I am quite prepared to learn whether or not it is. If you don't that just try me.

I am not tearing these papers apart to put them together in proper order. I am going to call Bill in and let him examine them. I will then put them back in the files, quite prepared to subpoena them if necessary. As an aside had an idea to copy them back.