

Dear Jim (HR),

More Kabak- and why less 7/16/76

One of my purposes, as you know, was to obtain the return of a file for reasons Ed has no way of knowing. Another was to obtain the return of what he was not supposed to have copied and I learned after he left that he had. (This one appears to be incomplete but I can't tell without emptying the entire package, for which I can't now take time.) I'm assuming the file of concern is complete. It is included. My sole checking of the package was for this and to see if the promised check was included. It was, paper-clipped to the letter, which is how I found the letter.

Although I said I was distributing a couple of copies, I see no need to burden you and Howard with his. He is sick. But if you want it, I'll make copies.

It is a self-serving letter, written after our conversation in which he admitted there could not have been the intent to wreck his book by letting him come at all. (He did seem to cling to the invention that this could also be accomplished by shaking him up and making him unhappy.) Why he wanted no tape is now clear enough.

Ordinarily I'd have no concern about some of what interested him, like my correspondence with Lane, which he seems to have returned. I was quite explicit in telling him why: I have no faith in his judgement and am troubled by his concepts and I just do not want to be involved in any side hassles.

I can't imagine his not knowing that damage was inevitable. When I took my letter out for mail to read I measured the package. He actually put 3 1/4 inches of papers in an envelope without either internal wrapping or external strapping. Lil wanted me to ignore his letter. With the threats inherent I decided not to but told her if she did not approve it I'd not mail it. She did.

He did replace the offset pencils he chewed up. It is a strange thing he has on this. He began by chewing the extra soft pencils I have and save for special uses so I won't have to buy any. I have dozens of other pencils I have accumulated and never use. But those, not in plain view, first attracted him. When he angled all of those he fixed on these blue offset pencils. This last trip he got the last of them and I mailed it to him. It angered him much. But he had to prowl to find them, this last trip and every other time. They never lay on my desk and I used them only to be able to make marks that do not reproduce in offset.

He included a package of a dozen, in a stout cardboard box that was demolished. I'll try to patch it for storage because I'd had to replace immediately. But it gives you a notion of the kind of package he was impelled to make.

Perhaps vindictiveness is an explanation. However, I suggest that it is a reflection of what I'm cautioning you and Howard against. He is at least potentially dangerous. In conversation he was tormented by the possibility he could be hurt professionally and especially at his firm by any association with the subject and us. As he babbled he confessed even to fear while driving here and wondered about being tailed. Actually. With the kind of nonsense he's talked himself into with me, like his enormous costs on my behalf, he can talk himself into anything. If he is under pressure of any kind, he'll be capable of almost anything. I'm not saying it will happen. I am saying you ought permit nothing that can be tortured into anything.

Best,