

Dear Jim,

8/20/74

The intensity of my very negative reaction to PH's letter and draft disturb me more than what I object to in his entire course of behavior. In turn this becomes even more disturbing because over the years I have come to develop some faith in my instinctive reactions and sense of what must be involved. You have your own way of evaluating what comes off the top of my head.

What should I find this letter so offensive he will want nothing to do with me. It is quite obvious that I could have told him I want ~~him~~ nothing more to do with him. The aid he has given does not begin to approximate its cost. And there simply is no way of getting around his stubbornness. However, one of the hunches I have is that he has some emotional problems, so giving him the option is to do more than save his face. It helps him feel better about himself.

It does seem that an ego problem is one.

He has done this sort. He is bright. He has received no recognition at all. He may have no awareness, but this kind of situation does present emotional difficulties.

What is not so sure as recognizing that he has a right to unethical behavior or that either of us should become victims of his needs. Nor is it to say that he has a right to jeopardize the present possibilities. From TV to the Congress you are aware of opportunities and that they are, if no more, not discouraging and such more encouraging than I can recall.

(Have I told you what I told you of my visit from to the Post. It is working well. John decided to have decided that his best-suited man was on vacation. When he returned he arranged to have an arrangement to come here next week. It was, slight as it is, a slight encouragement.)

I should not have said anything about my past day afternoon's effort if only because I was ~~not~~ in any way and loose talk could interfere. I'm sorry I did not say anything about it to Dad.

PH's attitude is a real mess out of it. Other than I have told him. That is not a fair explanation to me. And when these delicate situations come up, PH's attitude does tend to disturb me. Especially when for the first time in years I am close to a possibility of accomplishment. Any single foolish move, any that are well-intentioned, any that is in any sense ill-advised, can be ruinous to all this I have done and easy effort. The number of those that have been ruined over the years by the well-intentioned and wrong is beyond remembering.

There are three qualities I have to face: Paul is unyieldingly stubborn, Prussian, as I told him, and really unthinking about the entire matter; and I am carrying to heavy a load of emotional strains to permit even one more only. I now find that these make it not only difficult for me to put my mind to work but make me apprehensive of the kind of work I would then do, and if I never get another single paper I have enough work in hand to give me an output at this late stage of my life at least as great as the average writer produces. Getting more information weighs little in my personal scale of values, no matter how useless I might find any worthwhile bit.

PH is exceptionally bright. He has been kind in many ways, as I think I also have been. If he is helpful, to put it simply, the cost to me is greater than the value received and much greater than I am willing to pay.

I am certain I will not open any letter from him that was written after the date on which he can receive the envelope I wrote today and will mail tomorrow. I do have the concern I mention to him and others than I decided not to mention. But it should be obvious to you that among other things he had no way of knowing if we had approached the Nation. The use of ancillary rights to books are vested in the writer and the publisher, not "some one off the street" who has his own ideas. He didn't even ask. I ask myself "by not? He had no way of knowing whether we were working or had made arrangements for commercial publication or what plans any publisher may have had. He did not care, did not ask.

Of the many other things in my mind I ask, but one: he had to know that this could provoke me. He did it with either that knowledge or no concern for the possibility. Either, to me, is too much. If it is only ineffectuality, given my present circumstances and the work I want to do I don't think I should, that also is too much. The easiest and I think the wisest course is to see to it that there are no repetitions. Best,