

Dear Jerry,

10/15-16/01

Our great-niece, who has moved into the basement so she can be of some use to us, and some protection against falls at night, etc., was able to get your special delivery on her way home tonight. You went to that cost but did not trouble yourself to back the pictures with cardboard or to write do not fold on the envelope. I am glad to have them back, undamaged, and the mystery of who would steal my originals and replace them with poor copies lingers. We have had much stealing but no substitutions.

Your sending that ~~one~~ certified mail cost me about five hours and today they were hard hours. I was exhausted from the dialysis, which always does that, and today those jerks set the machine to take more out of me that they should have and that knocked me out more. But in the belief that the mail would bring your mailing again I just sat, not even trusting myself to read, to await the mail because Lil can't get to the door in time.

In all of this what has never entered your headm from your record, is the special problems of people close to 90 and with an abundance of medical problems and limitations. I think, and as I'll get to again because you say you wrote your letter for the record that you need to do some thinking about yourself and changes in you. Your letter is of justification, not of thought and, also for the record, and for what I fear is the futile hope that you will try to think rather than to justify what cannot be justified, I take the time and make the effort.

Since the fall that began all of this my sleeping has been disturbed. I wake early, tonight at a little after 10, can't return to sleep, do a little work and the return to sleep. Whether I'll be able to tonight is a question. You have no idea how much what I regard as your very bad and knowingly hurtful behavior has done to me. And had the deepness of the upset has worried me because of what you know about and ignored, that I have a heart condition the Hopkins doctors will not tell me about other than to say that after the MRI they can't do a thing to help. The last thing I needed was, I repeat, your ~~thoughtless~~^{lies}ness, your stupidity and your lack of concern. Followed by childish self-~~justifications~~^{justifications}. Again something you should think about. I will not get to direct responses to your letter tonight. Depending on how I feel in the morning I may then. I'm at the end of Specter v. Specter and may return to that. This

is not pleasant and that needs to be done while I am still able to do it Also in the morning is minor surgery, taking a sample from my face to see if it is a cancer.

But before knocking off for a while I quote your correct words to you: "The crux goes back to the removal of your books from the study. I removed them ^{at} your ~~instruction~~ instruction. I removed them only to the ~~cellar~~ cellar because I knew from the start it was a dumb idea." Actually, you knew more than that. You knew that was the only raw materia. I had left for work and that has two parts. One of the work and the other I told you often enough, that the doctors say that work has been ^{im}portant in keeping me alive,

You should have known when you did it because everyone else knew, I was out of my mind. For two days. I received three packages of plasma, an unknown quantity of whole blood and had surgery, all with no awareness or knowledge, I was that far out of it. I was not aware of any visitors except once when the doctors brought me out of it briefly and all I remember of that is talking to them and I think to Katie.

If everyone else knew I was out of my mind, how could you not have? You make no mention of that and I told you about it some time ago.

Katie has told me that I did say substantilly what you say I did. But you knew very well, whether or not you were aware of my unconsciousness, that what you did is the last thing I could have wanted. And you knew there were other things I's asked you to do that you had not done. Some goes back at least a decade, getting rid of what is on the white shelves that should not burden Hood. At the time I first asked that the burden might well have been yours. And at that time I also told you that some of what need not be kept had pictures and documents you might ~~want~~ ^{want} duplicates to me and for that decade or more filing, meaning refiling of duplicates, would have been a problem. Those we have gone over, when Clay took time ~~from~~ ^{from} the precious work he is doing, led to a picky load being taken for recycling.

But let us go back to your realization that "it was a dumb idea." Is that why you ignored those other things you had been ignoring for so long and had ^{that} ~~they~~ "dumb idea" done before I was back from the hospital where my total stay was 8 or 9 days? Is

that why you rushed it, because it was so, your word, dumb? My words, unthinking, stupid and hurtful? You could not have delayed it, realizing that it was "dumb," and spoken to me about it when I was not unconscious? Or asked ~~Hattie~~ to speak to me about it?

For me, putting it in the ~~the~~ cellar was like putting it in Singapore. It has not been safe for me to go to the cellar for more than a decade and ~~but~~ I've not been there in nine years. AS YOU DID KNOW.

Think about this for a minute. Wherein is it unfair or exaggerated to refer to this as unthinking, as stupid, and as hurtful?

All I ever asked you to do with those books is to borrow any you might want before they go to Hood, to which you could later return them.

But when I never asked you to move them, and you knew very well they were all I had to work with, you rushed that "dumb idea" so that within a week or less it was all done. Over with. Without thinking of anything you knew I'd asked when you knew I was conscious, asked more than once, too, without it being done.

If you knew it was "dumb" did you ask yourself what it would do or mean to me? Did you give that the tiniest thought? out

You say that I "may recall that I took my time in cleaning ~~up~~ the study much to your ^{dis}satisfaction." But I was not here. I was in the hospital. And did you do any more than take books from shelves? About which, after the fact, I certainly was "dissatisfied."

"That they ended up leaving the premises was none of my doing. You obviously told Clay to take what he wanted and see that Hood got the rest." That they left the premises was only because you permitted that. I was not here to prevent it. And when I was home from the hospital and asked you where those books were you told me that you had taken them to the basement. Not that a single one had left. I not only did not tell Clay any such thing, I did not know about it until he, not you, told me. If it had been anyone else I'd have demanded their immediate return but we owe Clay much too much. What I have told him is that if any question is raised that involves any of those books I want it returned immediately and that I want the rest returned when he no longer needs them.

Did either of you give a thought to what this did to Hood and to me? I wrote books about books I do not have and Hood had those

manuscripts about books it does not have. Critical ~~manuscripts~~ manuscripts?

You then say "There is no disputing these facts." But they are not facts and not a word of them is true. In fact, not only did you not tell me they were gone, when I learned from Clay and spoke to you you referred to one box. Then, later, you enlarged that to four boxes. And Clay has since increased that to seven boxes.

Next you say "You simply refused to ~~you~~ ^{you} what you put in motion." When I was unconscious, everyone but you knowing that, and you ~~did~~ not even think of waiting a day or ~~two~~ ^{two} and speaking to me about it again? Or even think of speaking to Katie, who certainly would have told you that I was not conscious. She knew I was not because she took me from the fall to the hospital and into it, on my feet, when I had no idea what I was doing. "I could hear, respond, speak and walk and knew not a damned thing about it! If you'd seen the size of the collection of blood under my skin on my left side you might perhaps have had an idea of what you should have had anyway because everybody else did.

I did not put it in motion-you did- ~~and with~~ even a child's thought you should have wondered what in the world I would do without them or why in the world I wanted them in the basement when you know I have no access to the basement. Especially because you recognized it as, your word, "dumb." It was, as you very well knew, the last thing in the world I wanted. If you'd given it any thought, which I'm sure you did not.

Or it was thoughtless and stupid, my words, true if not understated. There was not and could not have been any purpose in doing that. Doing that removed what I was working with. I could not, as you knew, check a name of a fact or even a title or the publisher.

"Incidentally, none of your assassination books were out on sale ~~in the~~ ^{for} \$25 ~~per~~ at the Hood Library." As I recall what Clay told me, he found them with books that were not in the archive and were to go ~~there~~ ^{for sale} and the Samet told him to ~~help~~ ^{at} help himself. (Who gave her that right and why did nobody tell her that is not the way an archives is treated, if a librarian does not know that?)

You next say I do not trust you. That is true. But in this you have not examined your record, even in this pretended examination of it.

Then you refer to the "matter of the ms. in the basement. After the fallout over the books I was reluctant to undertake any ~~at~~ ^{other} large ~~that~~ project." This is just plain dishonest. You are talking about

what was on the white shelves. And that I started speaking to you about many, many years ago when it was no problem for me to use the stairs. And the manuscripts on those shelves were the printed manuscripts that I'd turned down several, including the University of Oregon on, a quarter of a century ago. There was also what I regarded as trash on those shelves and what I wanted to do was to get rid of that so it would present ~~H~~ood with no problem. Going over that junk would have been a problem, perhaps for you if I'd died, and not getting rid of it would have wasted much space for Hood. What you did with the books had no relationship with that. That was much earlier, before I had begun, long before I'd begun the present series of book manuscripts. I must have spoken to you about that at least a dozen times over a period of your and you did not lift a single finger.

"Large project?" Clay and I did half of it in a couple of hours. He brought it up, I told him how to separate it and the junk is in recycling, a pickup load that ~~BE~~ttie Orem took to recycling.

"Large project"- all you'd have had to do was carry and there was no really heavy package to carry.

I can't explain how the pictures, including a rare original picture, disappeared from the Whitewash II package but the one thing I am certain of ~~was~~ ^{was} what my practice and that was to package all that went into the manufacture of each book separately and securely. But it was not too large a project when you wanted to borrow those pictures. And I took your word for it. I did not look inside the package. I am not supposed to lift weights. You then say I want to put my "spin" on that. But what else is there? I packaged it, the package was opened, those pictures were removed, period. You follow this with "...harangued me for neglecting to take care of the cellar and ~~the~~ consequently my negligence resulted in the theft of the pictures."

I did not "harangue" you for neglecting to take care of the cellar. What you say I "harangued" you about was your failure, for more than a decade, to take the relatively short time required to remove all but the original published, printed book manuscripts, what went to the printer, and not another damned thing. That and getting rid of what was also there because it was space and space was scarce. No big deal, not the whole cellar which, among other things, had all those files in it. Two moving vans full and not involved in this in any way, despite

what you say about taking care of the cellar." But I packaged that Whitewash II up in early 1967 and the stealing did not begin for several decades after that. Or, if you'd done as I asked many years ago, when I could use the stairs but was prohibited from lifting and carrying weights. nothing about Whitewash II would have been stolen. It could all have been out of there, which is what I'd wanted. I needed ^{space} ~~space~~ it took up and I had no need for it. (And it was next to the antique China Closet.)

On the McKinney matter, you and not you alone have never bothered to learn how to get the attention of the Congress in a constructive way. The right way is to call to their attention what you think they should know about. Her legislative rep or the one in that role was so excited over what I told him I had but could not take to DC that without even asking me if he could, he said he'd come up the next week for it and would then videotape me on it. But he was called off. The arrangements that in the absence of reality before her/them is that it was decided to launch their campaign (which I now understand is to make all that is on the internet public) with a TV show composed, I presume of McKinney, plus Lesar, Pepper, Melanson and John Judge, who is the craziest and most ignorant of all. That was scheduled but it was cancelled by September 11, bin Laden. (I'll be surprised if those who killed King boasted of it on the Internet that then did not exist, or I do not know what they expect to be able to find or get.)

You then say you were not the problem. That may be true for other reasons but for there to be any hope of any accomplishment what I had if her she had to have and her staff would then have informed you. You then say that "the problem was her congressional staff should have made the trip to Frederick and paid you for the copywriting." As a practical matter it is not and it cannot be so. They have too much demands for their time and attention and ordinarily there is no time to send the staff all around. That is not always true. I did a bit of moving around in the 1930s but it is now a different world with enormously more demands on the time of the Congress. In simplification, if you want them to consider something, you get it to them as fast as possible. In this case bin Laden may have closed it down, too, but the difference is that McKinney and others could have ^{only} known the truth, could have lived with reality and not be in the hands of all assassination nuts. If that man in her office had known the truth, the fact, by having that in

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his hand at the time I called, McKinney and I am sure others would have had that knowledge, not the silly dreams of assassination nuts.

You say of what I had for them, the transcripts of the Memphis evidentiary hearings and the ms. of "Whoring with History," I had placed the copies on the floor, in the study out of the way." In your thinking true but not what I'd asked of you. I'd asked you to put them not on the floor but on the little stand on which I sat when looking at files in the lower drawers. Bending has for years been a problem for me ^{and} that that would have had them higher. Soon as I had the opportunity I had them placed on that stand. For people like you having the strong flaps of cartons flapping around is no probely, but for people who live on coumadin and who become bleeders, it can be a dangerous and a serious problem. Where you decided to put them instead of where I'd ask you, close by, the difference for me was vast. Until I could get them moved I had to be extremely careful in going to the copied to use it. And you have known of this problem for years. You just did not think. Which is true of much of this mess. But forgetting all of this, read what you next say, belittling what literally, was a real danger to me. As you know but may have forgotten, when the outer layer of my skin peels back, and a cut from walking into one of those box lids would have been more of a cut, it has, for years, taken several ^{months} ~~months~~ for only a computer layer to replace itself. You've know that for years, seen if for years, I know I've not borrowed heavy books for years because they peel the skin of my ^{spine} ~~spine~~ back. All to your knowledge and with that knowledge read how you addressed that. And be proud!

Then you complain that I never asked you a single question about your background. Not that you did that if me! But it is not true. When I did ask you gave me the impression that it was something you did not want to talk about, something having to do with your growing up without a father. You did tell me you lived in the Cobbs Creek area, if I remember correctly, and went to Penn State.

mine is a different background. I am the first member of my family ever born into freedom. My parents fled the pogrom. They could not even talk about their kin who did not—could not. They spoke in Russian so I could not understand them and saw to it that I did not pick a word of Russian up. It was against the law for my father to study but they found ways. Not your background and not what you ever asked me about that I remember. Not that I was reluctant to talk about it and I am sure that in bits and pieces I may have volunteered a little of it.

Please think, Harold

be mean

You then say, "I don't intend any of this to be ~~mean~~ spirited. I felt compelled to just put it down for the record. And I think I have a right to take this course seeing that you have felt free to read my character, childish, stupid, inconsiderate selfish, untrustworthy, untruthful are just a few qualities that come to mind from your past correspondence." You should have said recent correspondence. And the rest it alrlargely correct. As I think the time I've taken for this shows. If you dispute a word I'll take the time to give you more. on I think nany poijt.

Just a bit from the beginning, it was not childish to do what you describe as "dunb", not to recognize that I was not conscious? Not to wait a couple of days and check becofre doing what you knew was stupid, putting when I could not get and use i, all I had kept to work on, as you knew, all I nede for wawhat Iin recent years I had written about?

On inconsiderate, aside form what I can go into on tjás I remind you of something else: twice when I was out of the nursing home and could not get to the pharmacy, which is in the ^{grocery} drug store you use, I asked you to pick up medicines for me when Katie was not availabl. Both times you said you were too busy. More recently and with the passing of some tim e and when again Katie was not available I first asked you if you weere going there or near there and once or twice you did. (I think the cost of t ose medicines and the cost of just gettingthem would surprise you, which is another matter on which you never once made and offer to pick medicine up when you were goinng to be there anyway. I do not intend to address the others. My purpose is not to insult you. But they are all true and if you cannot see that for yourself it is only because you refuse to. I began this telling you you should make an wffor¹ to straighten your hear out and I conclude with the same advice, @One of the reasons I've taken this time at this stage. Much of this is not n ew and some increased after your retirement. Pzrticularly being too busy. Old as I am, overloaded as I have always been and with all themany dif-ferent kinds of work that took my time I do no not remember ever telling you that once. I always had time for you snf ror your drmins r snnd I even hed he seminar the night before + left for "opkins for the beginning of the heeart surgery.

You want a record so I also s do. I urge yiu ti assess the honesty with which you have made your record and t o ask yourself why you did not do and say what you omitted. Harold.