

11/26/73

Dear Shirley,

How sorry I am that I was not home when you phoned! In fact, how sorry I am that I was where I was.

I was at the CIA's business at Georgetown. I presume you heard. Well, it was much worse, much more irresponsible than even I expected. And Skolnick and his gang of stormtroopers presented a situation from which Fensterwald just walked away.

Stormtroopers is neither exaggeration nor unfair. I've known Skolnick to be a bad man with a face painted good. I didn't know that his gang goes around terrifying women, stealing, threatening violence and other things besides their verbal violence and obscenities.

My copy of Tully has disappeared. I lend things trusting people and too many are unworthy of trust.

I also forget too much. I have completely forgotten both poor ladies who are both missing a leg. (Are they both the same side?)

However, as I understand the thrust of your question, one response is that nobody in his right mind would trust Ruby for anything. Turn him on and get him to do something, that is one thing. But I can't imagine any agency putting any dependence in him.

This reminds me of Mary, about whom I'm worried. The report I got this past weekend is that she was not at the sessions because she is sick. The nature and the seriousness nobody I spoke to know. If you know, I would like to.

It reminded me of her because I opened two hitherto closed archives when I was last there, arranged for Mary to go over them for me, and then she did nothing. I know she had some very serious problems. And we also faced a problem when I castigated Arch Ambrough for what he is. Mary appears to believe that if you are rich you need have no principles and can impose on others any way whim dictates. I'm sorry for her about this because in time she will face the reality. Anyway, she got mad at me about it and as though that were justification, just would not return files I loaned her that I had not even had a chance to read. She must have put a real hex on me because the Dallas reporter, Golz, was at the meetings and stayed away from me. I met him at her home and I was on the printed program.

We thought of you often when we got all those reports of how high the water was and how wide it swept. We wondered if it got to your ponds and fish. Hope not!

This past weekend's meetings were monstrous. I had initially refused to be part of them. Then Bud asked me to as a personal favor. I told him I had refused because I didn't want to be in a position where my own integrity would compel me to castigate his friends as the nuts and irresponsibles I regard them. He then assured me that this would be only serious and that none of those he knows I regard as nuts would be on the program. I trusted him and didn't even look at the program when I got it. He did and I knew, but I felt that if I did not go it would make Bud look bad. So I went and I left the hall - even the stage - when those who to me are nuts and worse were on so I could avoid knowing what they were up to. Anyway, one of the results is that in the press treatment there was nothing having to do with any of the fact about the assassinations. Fortunately the Post's reporter is a friend of mine and he downplayed the insanities.

Bill calls to supper. Our best and we do hope you are both well and that things go well for you.

Sincerely,