

Dear Jerry,

8/11/72

Your letter of the 8th came today. Had a hunch I'd be hearing further so I didn't mail the earlier letters, there being no rush, and there being nothing blinder than one who will not see.

I have no clear recollection of the emotions I may have wanted to inspire in you. I've preferred to and have tried to forget the whole thing. As you must know, from the time you did it, there was no undoing it, so that could have been in mind. It is quite possible I intuded to anger you. From the time you first began to show how IMPORTANT you think you are, roughly dating to the coming by Wolff and Roberts, who dignified you by spending time that was of no value to you or anyone else, I have tried in various ways to get you down to earth. I am not alone in having noted this, although I am probably alone in having tried to keep an unjustified and exalted sense of self-importance, coming from no single bit of work or any value, from running away with you. Those efforts are done. You are entitled to your observation, to even a lecture you say it isn't. But I am entitled to ask you if I am not entitled to be angry and express anger at the deliberate, conscious, behind-the-back maneuvering of a once-trusted friend who was, when exposed, open in admission of this kind of "friendship", called "good conscience", when he hadn't the self-respect to even discuss and the unspeakable gall to come down and pretend nothing had happened.

You say you have not been "deliberately unresponsive". Sounds like the melding of the FBI and WC semantics, for on virtually nothing have you been responsive. Take the case above, your despicable sneakiness called "good conscience", with which you'll have to live. Had you phoned me you'd have know that under his agreement to confidentiality I had given Cyril this and more, an interpretation that, if not complete, for that would have taken too long, still goes farthur than anything I've known him to see with his own eyes. You have NOT responded to this, for one of many examples. (Another you ought never forget is the unspeakable arrogance in even thinking you know enough to make a judgement.) There is no need to respond. In your interest I can't let this childishness go unchallenged, and I'm not concerned with whether or not you believe it. But you'll be IMPORTANT, unless you are in Spain, and in the best of company, sharing expert expertise with Sprague.

I've checked my Rolodex and I have no listing for Linda Silva. With this record I need not add it. But ask yourself how bitter-and subjuvenile you are to include such a comment as "Assuming that you don't have it and or haven't misplaced it." You are determined to make manna from shit, and that, since it is in your mind alone, nobody can prevent. It is disgraceful that you dare write this way and sick that you ~~xi~~ can, after all this time, permit yourself to think this way. Had I know how, I'd have made my own arrangements. And so you can have a personal evaluation of the counterproductiveness of "angry" letters, let me remind you that you had refused to do anything at all in response to several and had just told Walter you wouldn't and wouldn't help him when he offered. But you finally did. I know, "good conscience", huh? Grow up! It takes more than public hair to make a man.

On what you call "the manuscripts". I have no reason to doubt your word. Those you have I'd like back. They conatian what I intend using in other writing and I'd prefer that with an initial demonstration of "good conscience", what I've seen of your judgement, and the conscious sneakiness above all, to which I add protestations of holiness, I'd prefer everything back. However, there may well be Archives things I have no objection to your having. Any such I'll send back. My concern is chiefly, despite the dream world you have created to make wrong into right, is with misue, from the dedicated ignorant. Or the now underinformed, whose dedication I also do not question. I am content for Walter and Robert to have copies of what you say. I did ask that you give it to Walter, and I appreciated it. The court records you can keep. You might learn how old some of the current matter is if you read them, as I doubt you did. This is not something new with me, despite your invention of that, too. But you don't have to read to know or conceive yourself either informed or important. That is in the mind, in your case (you are not alone) self-created. And for whatever can comfort you, only the perverse and wrong seeming to have the potential, some of the file the return of which was solong delayed had relevance at the time I got hot on it and your recalcittance precluded providing copies to one who then had an interest, a well-placed man, as Howard, who has copies of the correspondence, can confirmnce he sees these file that I am having to keep as they are until I can find time to shift files around to make space.

Sincerely,

8/8/72

Dear Harold,

I just got your letter of 8/2 today although it was postmarked 8/3. I'd like to say that I found the tone much easier to digest than most of your previous letters of recent vintage. You've pointed out to me many times in the past that you feel compelled to write with passion, but the type of letters you too often send off tends to be received with anger, and I don't think that that is the reaction you mean to invoke. It certainly does not set the proper atmosphere for rational dialogue. That's just an observation, not a lecture.

Apparently Linda never indexed the files you gave her. If she did, she didn't pass them along to Don. If you would care to write to her and ask her whether or not she did index them her address (assuming that you don't have it or have misplaced it) is: Linda Silva - 3433 DeKalb Avenue, Bronx 10467. My assumption, however, is that she did not index them.

On what I sent back to you, as I recall, the Arnheiter article had the file written on it. In any case, that was something that you sent me in one of your mailings with a "please return" on it, so that I don't know what file it came from. The Dumhoff transcript you had left out for me to read on one of my trips down to your place, so I don't know what file that came from either. I don't remember if I sent you back anything else in that mailing. I send things back as I come across them. As I recall, the Dumhoff item had a green label on it identifying the file.

On the matter of the manuscripts, I have Cuup D'Etat (I believe I have part I only). That was one of the items I retrieved from O&D for you. I made one copy for myself and one for Robert. I got your approval for both at the time, but I remind you now in case you have forgotten. I made no other copies. I made several copies of Post-Mortem I and III, one for Walter (at your request) one for me, I believe one for Robert, although I am not positive of that (if I did it was with your approval), and about four or five extra copies for you which I gave you when I returned your original. The only other things I have to my recollection are some court briefs and some miscellaneous archives documents which I copied before returning them to you from O&D. ~~THESE ARE~~ Of the archives documents I made only one set of copies -- for myself (with your approval). I may have given copies of the court briefs to Robert, although I'm not sure. To the best of my recollection that is all that I have. As I said before, I never made any unauthorized distribution of any of this material.

I have not been deliberately unresponsive to you on anything, and I honestly don't know what you are referring to. I'd appreciate knowing what you feel I have been evading or ignoring. I will do my best to address whatever points you are referring to.

Best,

