

7/26/72

Dear Harold,

If the purpose of your letter of 7/24 was to infuriate me you succeeded to the point that my original reply (which I tore up) was nearly as repulsive as your letter. Get whatever joy you can reap out of rereading your carbon, but I won't stoop to replying in kind (and believe me, I could).

On specifics:

- You can pretend that Don and Linda were strangers all you want to, but I think that they would be more than a little surprised to hear you refer to them in this way. Do you always lavish gifts upon strangers or tell them what a great couple they are or express such regrets when two people who are strangers to you break up?
- I made clear to you in my letter dated 6/27 that I had not distributed anything of yours, so please don't ask me again for an accounting of who I have supplied with copies of your stuff.
- Your foundation file will be in the mail tomorrow. Your manuscripts, etc. will follow when I get around to it. Since they are of no use to you, and since I don't particularly care whether you feel that my lack of promptness is a sign of my lack of integrity, I see no need to rush on the latter items.

Please don't waste my time or yours with another letter like the one I received today. I certainly won't bother to reply if you do.

Sincerely,



HR-141 told me not to waste time answering, but although I think the chances of his even trying to think are close to nil, I also feel I should make a last effort. GRS & SM remain silent. I hope they do do go as far past reason as Jerry I think clearly has. No copies to anyone else by me, or you.

Dear Jerry,

7/28/82

In neither my 7/24 nor in any other letter I have written you did I write for the purpose of infuriating you. Nor, poor sick soul, is there any "jou you [I] can reap out of rereading" a carbon, which I'm not doing anyway. Following this you get into what you false label "On specifics". There are all the germane specifics in my letters to which you have made not even indirect response. It is because you will not permit yourself to face them.

I reply only to use this last self-disgracing and self-revealing letter so you can, if you would but, do a little self-analysis.

The first of "On specifics" is a denial that Don and Linda were strangers to us. We had never heard of them until you brought them for the demonstration. As I have acknowledged, you did bring them a second time, which I forgot. If you were not determined to justify to yourself what at least your subconscious tells you you cannot, you'd have no doubt about my asking you if they or she were dependable, for incredible as it may seem, you did tell me you suspected one of those you brought is a police agent! You bring such people ~~here~~? I think you told me he is an insurance investigator or something like that. Aside from plain prudence, would not this alone suggest to you that I just might, whether or not you recall it, have made this inquiry of you? And what, pray, does this have to do with your failure to return the file, whether or not when you were embarrassed and then claimed no responsibility, after more than a year of promising to do precisely that? You need not address this or anything else, for I'd rather break this off entirely. But why all the phoney anger about the irrelevant, the trivial, and the ignoring of the relevant? You are not kidding me a bit, but should you not sit back, cool it a bit, and ask yourself if this is designed as any more than self-deception, self-justification?

"Do you always lavish gifts upon strangers", etc. Come now, Jerry, you don't have to be that irrational to con yourself, do you. He "lavishing gifts" on anyone? You demean yourself. These seemed like a nice young couple. They were about to marry and set up house-keeping. As you know, we have the accumulation of a lifetime in the basement and as you also know we've never finished unpacking what is there that we brought here. We have been here almost 5 years, and in that time we have bought nothing for the kitchen. We have that much more than we can use AFTER giving much to at least one other couple just married (the first time I'd seen that girl). So we gave Don and Linda stuff that must, for the most part, have been older than they, and this in your torturing comes out "lavish gifts upon" them. If you could possibly detach yourself, you'd see this alone is irrational, and you'd ask yourself why you are irrational, why you exaggerate. Is there anyone who knows use whom could conceive that had we the disposition we are capable of lavishing gifts on strangers?

If you assured me you had made no distribution of anything of mine, I did not remember it. What you wrote could not have been better designed to accomplish this, for nobody who has the slightest regard for you could not be troubled by this outburst of untruth, part-truth and evasion, all cloaked in phoney righteous indignation.

You probably resent my describing you as arrogant. In the third "On specifics", ask yourself if these are not samples of it. "Your foundation file will be in the mail tomorrow." I specifically asked that it not be mailed, and Walter did, as I understand it, offer to return it to me in the manner I asked. But I'm glad you are sending it. "Your manuscripts, etc. will follow when I get around to it. Since they are or no use to you, and since I don't particularly care whether you feel my lack of promptness is a sign of my lack of integrity, I see no need to rush on the latter items." Now who in the hell do you think you are to decide, for me or for anyone else, #since they are of no use to you". If you had not invented a fiction in an effort to justify what can't be justified, you'd know better. But were it not the case, where the hell do you get off deciding for ANYONE else what is of "use" to him or her?

I'd prefer that you not reply. It is obvious that not a thing "On specifics" is really relevant to the disagreement between us. I respond in what I hope will be a final effort to get you to understand what has happened to you mind and to try to understand that some of it is not new for you clearly need some kind of help and it may get worse. There is nothing culpable in this, nothing that need provoke a feeling of shame. Not any more than breaking a leg should. But you have been irrational in all of this. At least try to think instead of pretending all that irrelevant self-deception. Sincerely,