

6/26/82

Dear Dick,

Carbon to Howard Only. And perhaps I should first ask if you want summer mail sent to school or your home address, which I have as 24 Bishop St.

I will not go into detail, and not alone because I don't want to take the time or relive the anguish. Mostly because I am *parti pris* and can't, really, be dispassionate.

Last one I sustained one of the more unpleasant traumas, on which, if you want them, I'd prefer that you ask details of Howard, who can then decide whether or not he wants to provide them. I think the decision should be his. In time there will be no question you'll have to ask.

I have broken completely with Gary and Jerry and asked both to return everything they have gotten from me and not to come here again. If you know how I felt about both, you know my reaction to what they did, its potential for hurt to Lil and me and in my view to the overall work to which neither has, for some time, contributed nothing but problems. Gary, for example, provided Ned. If that was not of evil intent, need I repeat the consequences? And he is the expert in the mind who did this knowing more than enough of Ned's mental and emotional problems, which I had to detect on my own after the fact.

In its simplest form this involves the most serious breach of trust by both on the same thing, resulting in the endangering of any possibility for years of the more costly and disagreeable work, and in my view contributing to the impending new "Warren Report" the misallocation of responsibility from which will be much more credible than the Report ever was.

The other person involved, in part innocently, but not really innocently, is Sylvia. I think Howard has, on his own, begun to find what I've long known, the paranoid-seeming reality of all the efforts against me behind my back. Howard has no way of knowing some aspects, as in California and New Orleans.

From now on I expect my contacts with the critical community, hardly an apt designation for a motley of self-seekers, sick egos and intellectual crooks, to exclude all those. For a long time my only contact with the CTIA has been with Bud personally on the Ray case, where I have little choice, having gotten Ray to ask him to be counsel, with Lesar on this and a few other matters. I expect to restrict this even further. To the Ray case alone. I have yet to go from the CTIA a single one of the pages it got from the Archives, for example, whereas Bud went over my files, copies what he wanted, including what he was told not to under any circumstances, without supervision. In almost three years I have yet to get the return of what he was not supposed to have. I expect to be in contact with you, Howard, Hoch after he finishes his thesis, and offhand, I think of nobody else.

I will be with the understanding that not even any comment I make on the weather will be for repetition to anyone under any circumstances, that it is all, regardless of ~~how~~ how inconsequential, is to go no further (except for such things as discussion between Howard and you). I just won't add to the nervous, emotional and financial burdens already too much for us the most minor worry.

I have written Sylvia a letter she will not like. Neither she nor G nor J can get what I wrote them until today because of the weekend. I asked her to think, I think she is emotionally incapable of it, and I expect at best a tirade or silence. I will probably let either rest with whatever she says, depending on what she says. To date the one "help" she has been to me is to campaign against me behind my back and to give to others what I gave her in confidence. It is immaterial to me if it was accidental. She has not made such accidents with others. I have sent HR only a copy of this, but I have extra copies for any who may object to anything I said of them. I imagine she will do the evil Gyril did when I wrote him an emotional letter intended for him only. I don't really think that this should involve you and Howard, especially not in the expenditure of time which I am sure will be

at best a waste of it. Howard, unfortunately from his point of view, got involved innocently, because of two things: the decency of his motive and his failure to ask me to keep what he told me confidential when he told me. I didn't learn this until too late, after I got a delayed letter from him on the same thing in which he emphasized it. By then I had written Gary and Jerry. I did, in fact, as soon as HR and I finished talking and after a brief talk with Lil, who overheard part of my end of the conversation. She read what I wrote before I put it in our mailbox.

For the moment this may cause Howard some embarrassment. I think that in the long run he also will be better off for it. I think that if he looks back he will find that from all of those involved he has gotten nothing of real significance. He can't have. They don't have it to give. Except bad advice in each case subtly motivated by their own jealousies, ambitions, egos, prejudices and emotional problems. If I regret even temporary embarrassment to him, it was, as I am sure he knows, both unintentional and under the circumstances, unavoidable.

This miserable thing has upset Lil more than it has me, and it has upset me enough. I simply must avoid any repetition that can be avoided.

I do hope you can understand this.

Accompanying this nastiness is the libel that I am a hog, keeping everything secret. There are so many only copies of so many of my files loaned out and I have no idea to whom, that in itself should refute it. Howard's experience here and with my Vietnam materials is more than an answer. His examination of my files must have told him how often I have invited so many to come here and see what I have, including the chief complainants. Aside from this, in recent days alone, recent in the overall, I have given the complete work needed for the writing of three books away. You know I gave Garrison everything of any consequence he had in the Shaw trial. The Dallas people alone have about three inches of my files of which I have no other copies. I could go on and on. Until I could no longer afford it, I sent at least two sets of everything I got to two others except where I sent more. So, I think the motive of those who knowing better tell such lies is a fit subject for the questioning of those not directly involved. Even with my ms. it is has with the single exception of PW been true, beginning with Sylvia.

I don't know what files HR went over when he was here. I do know he went over the Ned file because of a comment he made on it. He will tell you I never ask him except to see if I can help. Even such things as my government correspondence I not only send around, but HR is the one who has indexed it, which is more than a great service to me. It reminds him of its content, and I suspect he has a better knowledge of it than I do.

Anyway, I want you to know the present situation. And my intentions for the future.

We have yet to have any summer weather. We have had only three days on which it was fit to swim, and on one of those it rained. The storm here was more severe than the papers indicate, for they restricted themselves to the lowlands. I have grass in some places four feet high, coming from a lack of time to attend and the poor, usually inoperative condition of my mowers, about which I can't afford to do anything. We will not now be able to put in any kind of garden.

Hope summer is going well for you. Best,