

Dear Jerry,

3/11/72

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 been 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 making it, so that could have been in mind. It is quite possible I intended 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, - 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 one-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 unspicable gull to come down and pretend nothing had happened.

You say you have not been "deliberately unresponsive". Sounds like the making 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. And you phoned me you'd have known that under his agreement to confidentiality I had given Cyril this and more, an interpretation that, if not complete, for that could have taken too long, still goes farther 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 unspicable arrogance in even thinking you know enough to make a judgment.) 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 on check 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 damn 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 ~~it~~ 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'll like best. They contain what I intend using in other writing and I'll prefer that with an initial demonstration of "good conscience", what I've seen of your judgment, and the conscious sneakiness above all, to which I add protestations of holiness, I'll prefer everything back. However, there may well be archive things - 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 mine, from the dedicated ignorant. Or the now undereducated, 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. What is in the mind, in your case (you are not alone) self-created. And for whatever can comfort you, only the perverse and wrong bearing to have the potential, some of the time the return of which was so long delayed had relevance at the time I got hot on it and your recalcitrance precluded providing copies to one who then had an interest, a well-placed man, as now are, who has copies of the correspondence, can confirm he sees these files that I am having to keep as they are until I can find time to shift files around to make space.

Sincerely,