

Dear Jerry,

10/26/72

When Jim gave me your message, properly prefixed with your injunction that I not get apoplectic, we both had a good loud laugh. No, I have no objection to your having a xerox of my CIA foundations files. I don't even object to your sneaking a xerox, although I hope you at some time recapture enough self-respect to be a bit unhappy about not asking me. Even angry I'd have agreed. In fact, I'd have asked you to make a second or third set for others.

The things I've told you about yourself are, lamentably, true. I am sorry to add that you are also a sneak and a shcuck. You create fictions in self-justification, seeking to justify the unjustifiable, adopt the fictions of others created by them for their own purposes, and pretend these are reality. The reality is that there is little in my files, a very small percentage, that I restrict, and then not visually. These files were not restricted. You did not again have to be a sneak behind my back.

Your silence, however, creates problems for both of us. You are sufficiently uninformed and unimaginative to not understand the potential of those files. Howard does and has a special interest in them I will protect. He will go over them and others when he is next here because we both believe they are the essence of both a thesis and a good book. So, I have no objections to your having the copy, but I will expect you to protect this interest Howard has. This falls well within Howard's college specialty, as even you can see.

I make no demands, but when you are finished the index, I'd like you to give the cards to Howard or me because I have many other relevant files that should be added. If we use the xerox copy after you type it, which Jim indicated, that will mean making new cards from yours. Then new entries will have to be added.

I'd appreciate a second copy of the index when you have finished it for a friend not known to you. I presume you will provide Howard, Jim, Hoch, etc., with copies. I'd like Mary Ferrell to have one, too.

When the files you could not snatch are indexed, if Howard decides to type it I'm sure he'll be glad to give you a copy. If not, he may lend the cards to you. When last we talked, he was considering making the card index you appear to have.

This is really very funny. If you'd said you have this interest, there is so much more you could have had when I gave those files to Linda! Howard will eventually have those files and if he wants you to have xeroxes, I have no objection. We may not find all of them his first search. I have put some aside, knowing where they were. I have others in cabinets I don't dare open until I have a replacement because I fear they will come apart. However, that may not be a problem because they are antiques. Jim has a friend who he thinks would love to have them, and I've offered them in return for usable second-hand file cabinets. If his friend likes the deal, then when the drawers are opened, if the fronts come off, there will be a place for the files immediately and I won't have to worry about where to keep them.

Before you can understand others, you should try and understand yourself a bit better. There was no need for this new dishonesty, as there was no point in earlier ones.

Meanwhile, maybe you developed a suspicion or two in going over some of the names? If not, you are also a little dimwitted.

Harold