

11/8/72

Jerry,

Your undated, unsigned note dated Monday came today with a note from Margaret dated Friday. Obviously, at the latest, her note should have reached me Monday. It could have gotten here Saturday. But today is Wednesday.

It is a prime example of two of the things I have been trying to get you to face. Your absolute refusal to do so is why I have not acknowledged the two previous things you sent. (In the second, you call yourself a schmuck. This name? W.S.D.) I have taken some time to try to get you to understand yourself, but you have the unique genius that tells you there is nothing you don't understand, including yourself.

Here you also pretend to heap ashes, to ridicule. You are really engaging in a childish effort at self-justification. That's a diaper on your mind, son, not a suit of mail.

Besides being obsessed with this compulsion to self-justification, you have a grim determination to do things your own way, even when you have already learned it is the wrong way.

Were this not the case, examine your note, not the part about being a "deceitful sneak" (which you forget confessing), but the opening paragraph, which validates what you bracket with "deceitful sneak" about yourself, "dimwitted". You say:

"Must thought I'd let you know that Harboro is remaindering FRASE-UP for \$1.00. Its in their new catalogue & its also on the remainder table at the 42nd St store."

You also phoned Jim about this Monday. Were you the kind of "friend" you pretend to be and tell yourself you are, with the history with which you are familiar, you would have phoned me, not Jim. You told Jim not that the ad was in the new catalogue but in the Sunday Times and that you had bought two copies.

Remember the hassle I had with David when you told me you had bought two copies at Barnes & Noble and that they were remaindering? Now I don't doubt that you got two copies for \$1.00 each then and thought they were remaindering. I asked you for the receipt so I could show it to David. You didn't keep it. You know all that then ensued. So, now you also have no receipt. You don't send either the Times ad or the Harboro catalogue listing. You could xerox both free. Without them there is a limit to what I can do. As soon as Jim told me (and I called him, not he me, and for other purposes, at the end of the day), I wrote David, made a special trip into town and sent that letter certified mail. So, if I don't doubt your word, how much better than being a "dimwit" are you to send nothing at all by way of evidence, nothing at all I can quote? When you know the contract calls for me to get the remainders.

But, of course, you are this unique genius with total and instant comprehension and knowledge of everything. So, the timing of all of this turns out to be what is beyond your self-conceived genius, and I need those very things very much and two days ago, not next week. I filed a mail fraud case against David. The post office looked at and copied enough files to satisfy itself that there is a prima facie case for investigation. Not until after this did David write. And send me the money to cover a fraudulent deduction he had made. Then he wore me on October 5 offering me the remainders, without a bill or exact number for which I could pay. I accepted the best offer he had gotten, asked that it include subsequent returns, and under date of October 13 I got his assurances. No word since until today's. Meanwhile, according to you, and I don't doubt you, they have disposed of the books, or at least enough for Harboro to advertise them. And then this thing from Margaret for all the world as though David had not written me or I him? I know how they juggle with their postage meter, having had some prime samples one of which interested the postal inspector.

I'm glad to know they are again up to more dirty-work. I'm distressed to know that a good mind like yours can't do simple things without being shown how and can't do them even when it knows. How you could fail to see that evidence is what I need? Boy are you a demon investigator/analyst/researcher! It has meant much extra work and cost for Jim and me, as he will tell you, because I have to find some means of stopping this and then getting the books from David. In letting us know, you have helped. In everything else you have created needless turmoil, worry and waste effort and trouble. But you said it yourself: dimwit, schmuck, etc. You'd have better to start growing up and recognize that sick ego for what it is and start coping with it. For the good, thanks.