

Dear Jerry,

4/19/75

I'm sorry to bother you with the same chore when Jim tells me you want nothing to do with Robert. But that unique, self-important genius spends all his time not spent in fucking up and making himself important telling people who know me how wonderful I am instead of doing simple things that can have meaning. Like that tape recorder business.

To this day there has not been a word from him. Aside from the need that impelled me to buy it and his negligence that then caused me to buy still another and one not as easily carried, I do plan and have arranged for a Ray case interview in NYC for which I will need a recorder. I'm much too tired to carry anything unnecessary. And with what has been happening in my hotel rooms I want nothing of value to remain there when I am not there. So the last thing I want is an extra tape recorder, either to be ripped off or tampered with (as has happened) or to carry.

I would appreciate it if you can give your guts and get after him to leave the replacement machine there for me, at the Chelsea, that is, or lend me your cassette machine for the night of 4/25 only. I'll give yours back the next day.

If he can stop being a national figure, aka fuckup, long enough.

This interview will have to be private. The need for a tape is not just not to trust my memory but so Jim, who can't be there, can have the full story, not just recollection or notes.

I have read the Rolling Stone piece. Pieces. The last thing I expected of Robert is that he would graduate into a plagiarist. My respect for him and my opinion of his behavior of the recent months are not increased by it.

However, these are not the only reasons I'll not want to spend any time with him when I am there. I want to accomplish other and responsible things. This means that any time wasted with him would be wasted and I'm not stopping work for this long just to waste time.

I'm coming up Thursday because I'd be too tired if I tried to do it all on Friday, leave here and get there and be active. I'll stay over night Sunday and return on Monday.

Thanks if you can make this effort. I gather it will not be pleasant for you and I am sure that any promise made you can't be depended upon. But I hope you will try. Not only do I need a machine there but when I get back + have so much to do I need a machine with a built-in pause. I'm going to have to tape memos because I can no longer find the time to type them.

I simply can't carry books up there to sell. Instead we have had extra flyers printed so they can be available to people who may want the books. This will mean that I'll have to package all the orders that may result, which eats up time and any meaningful profit. Of course I'd prefer to spend that time doing other things. But there is no real choice.

Sincerely,