

HR
EW
IF

7/17/72

Dear Jerry,

Walter tells me you refused to get my foundations file back, refused to help do it and claim you are in no way responsible. I don't know which is worse, that you would tell such a lie or persuade yourself that it isn't a lie.

You brought a house-full of strangers here for a weekend. Linda (and I know nothing else about her except that her then-boyfriend's name was Don) offered to index the names in this file. I knew nothing about her. ~~XXXXX~~ I also was unwilling to entrust this file to the mails. You vouched for her, asked if you could xerox the file, and promised to bring it back in person.

For a year now you have had one excuse after another for not getting this back, but not once did you claim you had no responsibility

Even one as irrational as you have become ought have no trouble realizing that nobody would entrust such a file to a total stranger under any other circumstances.

I have written you often about this, and you have never responded in any other way. As you know, I also spoke to you about it often. If you have really twisted yourself into believing you have and assumed no responsibility, you are sick. If you lied, you are worthy of everyone's contempt on this basis alone. As you well know, that file cannot be duplicated today. And if you have the interest you proclaim, on that basis alone you would get the file and give it to Walter to get to me.

Either way, you had better start taking your hear apart so it can be put together the way it should be.

In my last two letters I believe I asked for this again. You made a false, self-serving answer to the first, making no mention of this, and have been silent in the face of the other.

I have also asked for the return of everything you got from me. You well know that everything you got was under the restriction that it would be used in no way without my permission and would be given to nobody else. You have been silent about this. I again ask that you return all these things, including all copies of my xerox editions. If you have made any distribution of them, I expect you to obtain all copies ^{and} ~~or~~ copies made from them and to account to me for all such unauthorized distribution of this or anything else. This is all my property and I believe I have every right to expect performance and soon. If you have any legitimate self-respect, that should require it of you.

Beginning with the time you started writing letters about the Times, before you began that great benefaction to mankind, your article, your ego got completely out of control. I realized it then and tried to help you restrain yourself, but you were insensitive. Go over my letters and you will see enough of this. You must also remember it from the phone calls that wasted so many hours for me, calls in which you read me page after page of meaningless letters, page after page of this magus opus, not content to await the reading. When I'd say I could wait until I read it, you'd say "just let me read you this one thing", and then you drone on. Wolff digified you with a reply, and you were swept off your feet. Roberts talked to you, and you suddenly became important. Not than anything came from these or other such ventures, but suddenly, in your own eyes, you became IMPORTANT. The ensuing exaggeration of all this nothingness is incredible, and the greatest tragedy is that you really believe you really did something great.

Although I think I know you well enough to know that self-analysis is something of which you are incapable, I nonetheless take the extra time for what I expect to be a complete futility on the slight chance that you may yet undertake to heal yourself. Your arrogance has become incredible. Your sense of self-importance is beyond description. And it is all based on absolutely nothing (unless you count the stupidity I am sure everyone else but you now has at least some doubts about other than nothing). Not because you are not capable of doing worthwhile things. That was not your aim. Your aim became to be IMPORTANT, and when all failed, you invented thi importance and live with it for all the world as though you have done something except evil.

Your emotional imaturity is something I often and long tried to get you to think about. Instead you remained childish in that and other ways, like demanding attention by being a slob and scattering yourself everywhere. So you had a disturbed condition on which to build. What you have done you can't undo. But it is not too late to try to heal yourself. If you do not, when the day you can no longer avoid it comes it will be disastrous. Sincerely,