

4/22/70

Dear Gary,

I do not know whether you can accurately feel the heat of my anger from the enclosed and what I have sent you recently, but in the event you do not, I am really furious. And I am at the end of all this nonsense. If it means a hermetical life, so ~~that~~ be it. I am so sick of having to worry about all the spying, all the defamations, all the trivial shit, and above all, the terrible drain of preventing what I regard as disasters and potential disasters of varying degrees, I just will have no more of it. About the past I can do little. But I am now in this mood: If I can do nothing to prevent misuse of my trust, I sure as hell will do what I can to see to it that whoever it is never forgets it. I am not going to bother with trying to analyze the strange timing, which is so suspicious, or worry about what John is really up to (though I have pretty firm suspicions). I am weary of treading all those many roads so well paved with such good intentions, and aside from the toll on my health, which I think you can evaluate, this has frustrated my own work. That is now over. Period. My correspondence is going to shrink to just about nothing. And I'll be getting things done again, in writing and in court.

I am in no mood to give you or anyone else details at the moment and I am telling no one but you. I will tell and show Paul when he is here, as he will be soon. I have obtained some of what I've been seeking and the accounting of the film is even more deficient than I indicated in all my writing about it, including in FM III. I have the receipts. They cover but 33 pictures at most, probably only 28, and involve a total of but 40 films. The panel lists a minimum of 45. I ask you to mention this in no way to anyone, not in person, not in writing. Do you see the significance? Does it not shake you as almost nothing else? This is one I do not want to worry about. Add to this that what I told you of 399 is without doubt the case. Was not COUP the perfect title?

If you think that in my anger and dismay I have been unkind or unfair to Howard and/or Dick, please tell me. In Howard's case he is but a boy, albeit a brilliant one, and I assume my own responsibility for trusting him as I did. He has seen what even you didn't. All I need now is for Nichols to pull a Skolnick! And re Skolnick, I have drafted a complaint. I now need a way of filing it, which means someone in Chicago to walk into the clerk's office, hand it in, pay the requisite fee (unknown to me), and that I have not been able to arrange. I am trying... Can you image what Skolnick has cost me in the past month? It is little consolation to know no one else can do anything about it. But how much worse that makes this newest inexcusable stuff.

I'm not in the mood for it, but I must now write Mitchell.