

7/14/69

Dear Moo,

So, you can find an occasional free stenographer, and you can find time to dictate a brief note. Which confirms my belief that your long silence, your failure to respond to what called for response, was in no way related to your alleged preoccupations.

Your letter of July 11 is demeaning to you. It is the kind of cheap irrelevancy a cheap lawyer uses before a jury for which he has contempt. Your failure to make any substantive comment, any response at all, merely sharpens this, to your further detriment. Perhaps by now I should not have expected better of you but I did.

Whether you have liking for me and/or my work or any aspects of either relates to nothing.

Had your ungentlemanly silence continued, I'd have continued in the opinion I held, that you failed to keep your word because you simply couldn't and were too embarrassed to tell me. Had I been in your position, I would have explained, in writing or by phone. We are not the same kind of people and I do not demand of others what I consider proper for myself. I know very well the only reason Lou hasn't done some of the things he should have is because he was so ordered, hence he has no option.

Your situation is not precisely the same as Lou's. It is you who made certain commitments to me for the office and made certain requests of me. I had no reason to assume you were coming me. I didn't then and do not now. I therefore assume that it is outside your control. However, with your own word pledged, I did feel, especially because you have never responded on this (nor has Lou), that you should at least make the effort and be man enough to tell you have had and failed.

There is absolutely no question but that you asked certain work of me, entailing certain costs, and gave the assurance that not less than these costs would be immediately returned to me. As a result I spent an exhausting period, did what you asked, and have been stuck for the entire cost. Ordinarily I would resent this, as I think most men would, but particularly because you knew I was in acute financial distress do I resent it more. And your unbroken silence for six months is a shameful reflection of you as a person. It would be inexcusable if you were not aware of our circumstances. Because you are, it is much worse.

Last week I was able to renegotiate my debt, part of which (and not a major part) represents money I spent trying to keep you lemmings out of the drink. It is costing me 25% more interest. When raising any interest is a major operation, that in itself was enough to embitter me when I have such friends they cheat me and still pretend friendship. On top of that I had a severe reaction to this long period of self-abuse, again quite a bit of it on behalf of you down there. I can barely drag myself around, have difficulty breathing and am under strict injunction to take it easy. What I am going crazy trying to raise the money I do not have to pay the interest so I dare take hat in hand to renegotiate and I think of all the ways you people have pissed away the money and time of others, all those many expenditures so much worse than waste, meanwhile sticking me, how the hell do you expect me to feel? Need I tell you how there is money for every jouiride,



jerk, frivolity and self-indulgence but none to repay honest debts to selfless friends who have labored for you free? Do you think I do not know what was involved when you sent your boxtop g-man to Europe (with girl friend), and on what no reasonably-mature high-school undergraduate would have gone for? Or his other and not inconsiderable expenses, to the best of my knowledge without exception wasted save for those minor social services he says he rendered? Need I run through this list for you? Then you cheapskates, frattering away this enormous sum (enormous to those of us who have done what with all of it and all your staff, facilities and capabilities you have not be able to add to, have merely undermined), pretend you can ot repay the money you asked me to spend for you, even for you (all) that is too much.

You know, ex small part of that expense money is for meeting Numa at the airport and driving him around. Now with all the work I have to do, I didn't have to take off and incur this cost to meet him, but I did, trying to help, trying to reduce your costs. I had accomodations for him, but he wanted a motel, for the most childish (given) reason. Well, instead of going home after it was over, instead of having me drive him to the airport, as I had offered, he goes to the best hotel in Baltimore, rents a car for pleasure, for the weekend, and goes to the tough joints in Baltimore. Do I think for one minute the needless hotel and car-rental bills are unpaid? Only my small expenses!

If you people were not so stupidly selfish (for there can be intelligent selfishness), if you were not so completely self-centered (and I know of none in the field with less right to be), if you had any decent motives at all, even the most elemental, basic decencies, this situation would not exist - and you would be too ashamed to write so childish a letter.

And so self-important - getting ready for the next inexcuseable foulup, Much too busy to return what I loaned, even too busy to say you will when there is time or that you can't find it. I, of course, have endless time to write repeatedly and needlessly in a futile effort to get back loaned material, but you who borrowed it are much too important or busy (?) or unconcerned to observe the simplest decencies that obtain between strangers, not friends. If you believe the preacher, not even God is that busy, that important.

And when you finally claim to have come across confirmation of something I was working on more than a year ago and become humble and human for a minute and promise to send it to me, a month goes by and all I get is a joke. It would have taken less time to merely enclose the promised material!

So, if it comforts your intellectual immaturity to pen so childish a note, for all the world trying to make the victim of a rape out as an attractive nuisance, there is nothing anyone else can do about it except feel sorry for you, the lack of character displayed by everyone involved, and hope that the involved egos do not again get so spectacular an opportunity to unveil such total and completely professional incompetence.

Meanwhile, thanking you for those kind expressions couched so as to at least seem to be compliments, I nonetheless tell you I expect you to make a real effort to see to it that the word you, personally, gave is kept, and promptly. My needs continue to be urgent and pressing. After five years without income and a fair amount of waste (such as what I spent for you people), how could it be otherwise?

You are old enough to have learned about sowing and reaping.

Sincerely,

Harold Reisberg