

7/8/69

Dear Moo,

From the past you know my bluntness when I consider it appropriate. I do not spare it to you.

You are, without doubt, the most callous, selfish and self-centered people, indifferent to considerations that decent people are motivated by. What you people - and you personally, for it is you who asked me to do much of what I did and you personally who gave me the assurances I required as a precondition - is below adequate condemnation. The other abuses I was prepared to accept when I found this to be the New Orleans par. But how you, personally, could give me the assurances you did knowing at least what I had told you of our situation and since then have been completely silent, I ~~guess~~ just cannot understand. I suppose you get so accustomed to passing away other peoples' money it no longer burns. You, personally, have seen how we have had to forgo the normal amenities of life, like decent furniture, decent rugs on the floor, things like that. Yet you could be responsible for our further - and entirely needless - exploitation?

And this is without regard to the enormous amount of time I had to spend in the futility of trying to save lemmings. You, personally, would die if you put in the period of work I did at your request between my December and January trips. Have you any idea of the constructive uses to which I could have put just that time? Among other things, I could have written one of the books I have and have had researched.

To beat me out of a few paltry dollars on top of it is, even for New Orleans, utterly unconscionable.

Then you tell me, elliptically, by phone, that you have a kind of confirmation of one of the things I discovered and you promise, in great and unmanly fear, to find some way of communicating it. Only you are too self-important to spend this meager few minutes. Or even more incredibly, you are afraid of "discovery" by those who know all, having done it! I have seen Deano unbutton his entire fly and open his trousers to urinate, but the wonder is any of you can do it at all unassisted.

In the letter I wrote Jim today, I did not embarrass him by repeating what has come back to me from more than one person, that he is telling people all the critics but Vince left him down. He is capable of believing it, perhaps does not realize how close he came to even more total disaster and even disbarment. I have been silent under great abuse. But my patience is not as infinite as New Orleans ego. On the other hand, has it ever occurred to you geniuses what you have done to the "critics", to the painful, solid work done with so much blood and suffering?

Cooperation is two way, as is genuine friendship, trust. You have earned ~~nothing~~ none. Recall the biblical injunction, lest you reap as you sow.

Disgustedly,

Harold Weisberg