

Mollie:
You are absolutely right.
Keep after me.
(handwritten in pencil)

May 28, 1965

Dear Mr. Cohen:

I know you do not like to be lectured to, especially about your health. I know, too, that you would like to forget about your illness and get back to what you consider a normal. I also would like this for you. However, by your own permission, given to me in both hospitals and at your home, and with Mrs. Cohen's blessings and a conscience haunted by Mrs. Cohen's words of "If I had known; if I had been told that he was pushing so hard, working too much, I would have stopped it. Perhaps I would have helped," I have the right to bring this to your attention.

Seeing this through my eyes may give you a better perspective. You are trying to do in the three or four hours you spend in the office that which is usually done by a person in eight hours. Because of your own interests, or because you want to appear completely cured, or because you are too polite, you are letting people push too much too fast. Mr. Wheat asked for three minutes on the day of the hearing. You grimaced and said that he did not know what three minutes meant. You knew it would be longer. Using the skills I have seen you use before, kindly but firmly I think you could have cut him off in 15 minutes instead of a half an hour. You had the excuse you needed to read the position papers before the hearings.

It was you who requested a meeting on Rule 206(4) that same day. Much of the Commission's business waited for four months, surely some of it can wait a few extra days and you can do without having meetings five days a week. You can also be firm about seeing that the meetings stop at 1:00 p.m. and not go on as they did yesterday until 1:30 p.m. thus making it so late for you to have lunch. All the books I got for you, and I read them too, stress not pushing to the point of being overtired. You have come out of meetings several days looking tired.

You have not eaten properly since you have come back. I do not mean what you eat. I don't know whether you are right or wrong on that. What I mean is that you have taken approximately 15 minutes to eat and have during that time talked business to either Leonard or to me or read work papers. You have taken only two rest periods in the office and one of them, the day of the hearings, you did not really rest because you read the position papers and the newspapers and your mind was running and racing on the hearings. That day everyone thought you pushed much too far.

You have worked on your ride to the office and on your ride from the office and you have worked from your home after a brief rest. In effect you have been working more than an eight hour day already.

You know better than I, having been through what you have in the past four months, that being sick is very painful, unpleasant and expensive. You are not being fair to yourself, to Mrs. Cohen, to the children or to any of the rest of us interested in you if you do not take care of yourself. And only you can do it. I know you enjoy the work; that you were greatly frustrated by being away, and that getting back has been good for you as well as for us and we would like it to stay that way. I am asking only that you be reasonable; that you slow down a bit; that you retain control of all situations and call the time on them; and that you do not push to the brink. Learn to stop before you come to it. PLEASE LISTEN.

Mollie