

April 28, 1975

Dear José,

Thank you for that telephone conference. It helped to prepare me for what I did face. That was a threat all right, but it didn't take the form I had anticipated. It was more subtle in a way — it was couched in amiable language. But it was direct enough. The student in question has, in course other than mine, 2 B's and 2 C's; he is here on a scholarship provided by his government (Prussian); I was in effect told to pass him — indeed, I think, to give him a "C." The

best defense I could maintain was to pretend to hear no threat. And your mood of high reasonableness had helped to get me into a mood in which I could simulate such high reasonableness. When you are in such a mood, you do not hear the smiling freshman Fran make a threat, right? You rather seem to hear that smiling freshman draw ask you serious judgment about a student about whom you have the right to make a serious judgment. That is what I seemed to hear; and I gave the judgment.

But I was told to confer with a woman in English who's been trying to help him. Quite obviously, she

will be assigned to help me. I shall take my good time in finding her.

What was at issue - this was transparent to me - was not the welfare of the student. (And here, ^{at Fairleigh Univ.} the genuine intellectual process of the student is never at issue, because nobody has any conception of such a thing.) It was that the Persian government has supplied funds to Fairleigh for this young man ("he will become a leader in his own country," the dean remarked); and Fairleigh has got to produce. Therefore I've got to.

Incidentally, the man inquired in passing about my few other foreign students. That, through a lot of work I've done with them, they are now doing creditable work - well,

he was only mildly interested. His concern was to satisfy that government - he told me that he'd written strong letters to the government officials urging that the young man retain his scholarship, reporting that he'd made good progress. I am simply in his way.

I found some more notes in me about the theory of recollection. I wrote them down before they flitted away. I'll write you a note about them in a few days, if I may, or else tell you of them during the summer. I think they do all make sense.

Thank you again for your help to me.

Sincerely,
J. J.