

Sally, I'm preparing to write extensive accounts centered on your relationship with Peacock and your plans to install Sims as superintendent. I have questions of course, but the articles are not going to be held hostage to your decision to speak or not to speak to me. Nor am I going to keep calling or chasing after you. I don't do that. I make the offer: we should meet, preferably this weekend so there's plenty of time to speak, and we should speak. On the record. Obviously it's your choice. But I hope you'll agree: your input is important, because your silence speaks loads as well, and not to your credit. I hope you'll let me know if and when we can speak. I sympathize with your feeling the shocks of public office's glares and pressures and take that into account. This isn't an inquisition. It's legitimate questions raised by your own actions. You have made yourself the center of this issue. It would be to great benefit to hear you out. But again: this is my one offer. It's unseemly to give chase, and I will not do so. Nor would I want in any way to deny you every possible avenue to speak. (The conceit that you'll do it all at the board to the 50 people there is all fine and good and plays well to the theater of it. My job is to report for my 20,000 readers, and to ask questions you may not provide in your own, unchallenged monologue on the board, and that so far you have not been providing). I hope you'll agree to speak, and that we'll soon look back on this as distant growing-into-the-job pains--a job you earned, and that I hope for all our sakes you are not squandering on misjudgment and poisoned advice. Please let me know.

I am not available this weekend.

First half of next week would be just as good.