

There was an interim after dropping out of the Church
where it was an immense pleasure
to savor an impure desire or unsavory ambition
in the privacy of one's own id,

but in this present era of tapes, videotapes, and
of stress evaluators, micro-cameras, and psychological
lie detectors,
testing,

we're right back where we started,

except that now it isn't only God
that knows you at your worst,

it's everybody.

The trick is to keep a perfectly blank mind.
You may have noticed an increasing number of public
servants
getting very good at that.

UP THE DOWN ELEVATOR

"Whatcha been up to?" I ask,
and I get more reply than I bargained for.

"Nothing," he says. "None of it did any good.
A lot of us got lost back in the sixties.
You were right to just keep writing."

These are the seventies
when what was won with body's blood and soul's
is overturned by fiat.

The perishable rubbish of a personnel file
leaves no room for moral victories.

I'LL LET YOU WRITE YOUR OWN PUNCH-LINE TO THIS ONE

After Betty Ford's interview,
Police Chief Edward Davis held a news conference.
He was upset at what he had heard.
He was afraid it would encourage
"premarital sex before marriage."

-- Gerald Locklin
Long Beach CA