

Wednesday, March 3, 1971

Dear Fred, Marlynn and Sylvia:

A week ago tonight, Wednesday, February 24th, at about 11 p.m., David called me. He was extremely friendly at first and then wanted to know if I would like to buy some documents from him. I told him we are already buying all the declassified documents but we haven't received them as yet... He said he spent 17 days in the Archives in January and saw all those documents and there is nothing of any value in any of them. What he has to sell are correspondence papers between the various members of the Commission. He cited a few things in them and I told him that most of what he was telling me is in the volumes... He was surprised but still wanted help in paying for his order.

Naturally, I asked him when his book would be out and he put it way into the future... I said, "Jimmy Lee spent a weekend with Fred and Marlynn before he came home last week. I guess Fred's book will be published before yours is." Poor David almost came unglued. He got into a screaming fit. Fred, you have stolen all of his material... etc. etc. etc... He wanted to know if you have a publisher. I lied and said, "Oh, I'm sure he does." Then, David tried to calm down and said, "Oh, well, publishing a small pamphlet in Southern California won't hurt my book with a major New York publisher." He asked me what your book was about and I told him Jimmy Lee wouldn't tell me... said he was sworn to secrecy. Well, David called about 50 times (literally) until he finally talked to Jimmy Lee on Friday afternoon, the 26th.

I have been ashamed of Jimmy on many occasions and I have also been proud of him on many occasions... But, I've never been as proud of any of my children as I was of the way Jimmy handled David. I have a tendency to get as wild as David does when I'm angry. I get so ~~mad~~ mad I can't think straight. Jimmy stayed cool and just kept repeating that he couldn't tell David what the book is about... it was not stolen from David... it is well written... Fred let him read it... Fred said I could read it if I came out there... Then, when David kept insisting that Fred must have stolen it from him, Jimmy told him that was absolutely not so... that much of it is right in the volumes... but the theory is completely new... but, that even if Fred had "stolen" it, it was perfectly legitimate because no one has the right to sit on this kind of thing for so many years.

Apparently, David called you late that same night, Fred.

Must get to work,

Love to all of you,

Mary

3/5/71

Replied by
phone call

10 - 11:45 pm