

Dear Bud,

2/19/74

Saturday Jerry phoned me at home before calling at Jim's and despite the fact that I have been after him hot and heavy (provoking some remarkable outbursts) he could not have been calmer or more friendly. Today I have a long, conciliatory, partly defensive, patient and fairly well reasoned letter from Jimmy, of which I'll make a copy for Jim's files in the case. I have been after him pretty severely, too. That both have taken from me all over again what each finds unwelcome is astounding. I am not going to take the time to try to figure out why but I do regard it as significant.

Jimmy even admits lying to me about Jerry. I had accused him of it. While trying to make nothing of it, he appears happy with Paul's story. And he explains a number of things I think Jim should go over. In short, for him he is solidly back in ranks.

Before I forget, I have begun to collect your gas and cans for your country place. If ten gallons is enough for a trip back, I can be certain of at least that by Friday night. However, I forgot to ask whether you want hi-test or straight. What I have gotten already is hi-test. I had to use two second-hand cans but if there is rust there will be no problem because you will need a funnel anyway and I'll try to get one with a flexible tube. A piece of cloth in the line of flow will remove all particles. I do it all the time with the cans I use for mower gas. Two cans will be new and if you want other new ones I'll be able to get them in time.

Back to the Ray business. I suppose I should have sprung my ideas on Jim first and gotten his reaction and also discussed it with you separately before springing it on both of you at once when neither of you had time to think it over. If you have any doubts about it, let us try to find time for a leisurely discussion of it, just the two of us, so I can amplify what I said if that is needed and so I can go into other things for which there was no time. I believe that if we prepare properly and go about it the right way we can accomplish much, maybe blow things open. I have much that I have not told you about because you did not authorize the necessary expenditures. If the consequence is that I have much less than we can use, I also have what I regard as adequate. And I have in mind, among other things, at least one witness I think you should handle whose testimony could be a sensation.

Because of the turn things took I felt it better that I stay away. If this had the effect of reducing friction is also had other effects. One of these is that things we should and I think could have done have not been done. Even started. I am sure you saw problems with them early and just dismissed them. However, I think that with a little effort and not much cost some can still be picked up and have enormous impact. One of these is civil suits, and I am confident they can more than pay their cost and should. Here, because I just assumed you would follow through on them I did a considerable amount of work I laid aside without completing it when so much of my time was wasted after I came back from gathering material for the habeas corpus.

While I have not discussed it with him, I am also confident that Jimmy would want any recovery to be applied to what has been spent for him by you and Jim and by me. Huie by now is a mark and Frank and Doubleday are sitting ducks.

And what I think you do not realize is the benefits to the criminal case of a civil action against Frank, Doubleday, Canale and Dwyer. I've got enough and discovery will yield more and I know what. If you want, as I would recommend against, you can include Bentam and National General.

This, too, is something we should discuss. It may not be the way you assumed it to be when you dismissed the idea long ago. And I think it is necessary, now that we have a victory and an advantage and because I assume the State will go to the Supreme Court and delay farther. Besides, you can do in civil cases what you cannot do in criminal and what I have in mind will include proving the State deliberately framed Jimmy, knowing better. Or, no innocence....Six hours of interruptions so I let the rest go for any discussion we may have. I do believe we must attack now. Sincerely,