

Dear Jim,

1/7/76

I'm sure glad you didn't call until I was ready to leave for ⁴11. I then had to drive her two places and it was after 7 before we were home. However, while I was waiting your brief mention of Bud's one reaction just wouldn't go away.

I have written him about it but as Lil says, it is about like knocking a head against the wall. My hope is that at some point Bill may get interested in what the whole story is, what can happen as a result, and that Jimmy's defense may from all of this improve.

No matter how much we may want to we can neither of us go through another Memphis.

I will not think now of putting in those kinds of hours or living through all of the unnecessary tensions. It was a drain on you you ought never have to go through again and then should not have had to. It is not by any means only this miserable personal business. We are looking toward a trial. Whether or not we get it we'd best be prepared for one. With you alone? With Bud having a chance to do again what he has done?

Because the Playboy deadline on the piece Jim is now writing ^{is close} I had to phone him and tell him when I'll be away. They do consult with me. So, a days not at all, some a half-dozen times. They did tonight as soon as you and I finished talking. So, I told him about the Potomac piece. His wonder is that Bud hasn't been in serious trouble already and that someone hasn't written a real expose that would be a different kind of ruin.

Believe me there is much more than I've mentioned in writing Bud and Bill and this business has to end now, crazy or no crazy. What I can do I don't know but what I am willing to I do.

There is more of the same rotten stuff. I haven't had a chance to read it yet but I read Howard's accompanying note. It says that Bud's new associates, the AIS crowd, is so literally plagiarizing that they are photographing actual pages of my copyrighted and quite original work and distributing it. Howard sent me a copy of Grawdaddy with it.

It is not only that there is no end to this but that it can provide the means of doing something to stop the harm these people do. Our problem, of course, is that we are but two people and can do only so much.

The weather report I last heard is what you said May told you. This means the odds are against your getting here tomorrow so I make these notes note to forget.

You may be right about Bud wanting to stay in the Ray case after 6th circuit. There was a time when I thought he or Bill said otherwise. He is crazy and egomaniacal enough to talk himself into believing that with the crap he talks about that is so unreal he can try such a case. After what he has seen and been through I think Jimmy may have other and entirely uninspired ideas.

Jim raised an interesting point I hadn't really thought about, ~~sticking~~ although it was obvious when I read the Potomac piece. Valentine knew better, if only from sitting through the hearing, after which he did this writing. Unless you begin with an assumption neither McKinley nor I did, it means he was told what to write. Paul knew better and other than he wrote.

hastily,