

July 8, 1969

Dear Jim,

I did not write this letter earlier because I had hoped it would not be necessary. After six months during which Lou and Moo have not responded, I can no longer avoid it and, indeed, it might not be fair to you not to let you know. While I feel you should have been informed, I have no way of knowing you have been.

From the Spring of last year on, Lou was quite specific with me. He told me quite frankly on those occasions I went down there to help you that he did not know when he could repay my expenses. Nonetheless, because I believed you needed help, I increased my to me enormous debt in the effort and in doing it lived in a manner I would not ordinarily have elected.

However, my last two trips there were of a different nature and the advance understand^{ing} was specific. My already desperate financial condition had deteriorated to where I could not go without the assurance I would be repaid. The fact is that on each of those trip my funds were so short I did not have a meal to which I was not treated.

In addition, between these trips I was asked to do certain things in preparation for the trial that entailed for me considerable cost. Obtaining and copying documents, for example. Lou had a list of those of which I had a record or could recall. The pace at which I worked made keeping a record impossible and I am confident the records Lou has ^{are} incomplete.

When I knew how and on what money was being spent during this long period, it was not easy to add to my indebtedness trying to do what wasn't being done. Such things as sending repayment to Al Chapman for you were painful because you were without thought of my costs in dealing with him for you after checking with you personally in August 1967 - and my phone bill with him was about equal to what you sent him.

Sunday something frightening happened to me. The hospital diagnosis was exhaustion. So, perforce, I'm slowing down, must get more rest. But last night I lay abed worrying about when I will get the interest on my indebtedness when the interest and the principal, just under \$40,000, fall due before you can get this, tomorrow. I am not a public official, I have and have had no income for more than five years. This time I have not arranged the financing, though I hope to, and I do expect to be able to renegotiate the debt.

Looking at it selfishly, in the time I spent trying to help you I could have written several of the books I have already researched, and with the money I spent for you I could have printed one of them. I have four written (none on New Orleans, none on New Orleans planned, though I will undoubtedly use some of what you didn't).

There are some things I did for you where I feel I have no call on you because I did not discuss them in advance with you or members of your staff. One of these was going to California and getting the agreement of Hall and Howard to go to New Orleans voluntarily after they had gone to court and beaten you. I do

not know what you know or were told about this, but the fact is I did it alone and your office has tapes of it in both cases, for I was even able to tape it. I never expected to succeed in either case because here, after they had gone to court and won, I really believed I was attempting the impossible.

Those things where I did expect ultimate recompense, if and when you had the funds, Lou has a kind of record of, for my own records are not complete. I have no way of knowing your present circumstances, therefore, because I was in advance aware of the uncertainty, I cannot and do not make immediate call. My recollection is this involves about \$1,000, more or less.

The arrangement covering last December and January were as specific as they could be. I was promised more than the repayment of my actual expenses, though I am not asking for more. When this promise was not kept, when I left New Orleans in January to help with the Washington trial, I told your people I would not be able to return because it was a financial impossibility. What they did not know is that, still wanting to help you, I also phoned some of the "critics" in a financial position to help to tell them without help I could not be there. The subsequent misrepresentations of these calls have been embarrassing, but what I could think of to help I did try.

While ordinarily one assumes that the man in charge knows, I have no way of knowing that you were made aware of the situation. Therefore I take the time to give you this brief summary. What is involved in the December-January expenses is, as I recall (Lou has records), about \$250. Right now that is a very large sum to me.

I hope you can find it possible to do something promptly.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg