

12/18/75

Mr. Donald Haneke

Dear Mr. Haneke,

When your letter of the 8th came I was unwell my wife answered it and I'm glad she responded as ~~she~~ did because in the work I do and the needs I have a lawyer can always be of help. Right now particularly one licensed to practise in New York.

I have a fairly heavy case of phlebitis from which I am coming out slowly. It was late being discovered. Shortly before you wrote I had made my first trip after leaving the hospital, for a debate with David Belin at Vanderbilt. I presume you noticed his abrupt if self-servingly expressed change of position. (The week before I announced a challenge to all those I accused of perjury and those lawyers who suborned it, to get oath-to-oath with me before any Congressional Committee. That night I laid out a case to his face of David Belin's suborning of perjury plus specific cases of his suppression of evidence that would have destroyed the case he fabricated. He had then begun to read Post Mortem. I am without doubt he wasted no time finishing it.) By the next day I could not wear shoes and had to be assisted home. The day your letter came I had been driven to a doctor in Washington, so my wife answered it. When the mail stacks, with only two of us, the close to impossible become impossible.

If I were to spell everything out it would sound paranoid. Therefore, if you are willing, I'll leave the specifics to my lawyer/friend Jim Lesar, whose Washington address is 1231 4 St., SW, Washington 20024. His phone is 202/484-6023. He is of your years but just beginning practise (alone) because his decision to become a lawyer was an after-thought.

It depends on what kind of law you practise and whether you consider being of any help dangerous to your practise. We have some civil cases to file in New York, where people owe me money, where I have been defrauded and if it becomes possible perhaps others.

Jim is not only all alone, he has done all the fantastic legal work in the Ray (King) case. He has had to do everything from his own typing to his legal research. There is no limit to the help he can use.

He is also handling all my many Freedom of Information Act cases. They have been extraordinarily successful, with defeats the biggest victories. You'll see one example in Whitewash IV and references to another. You'll see more in Post Mortem. In that case we have filed in the court of appeals and given the government a month's extension in return for a promise not to oppose our move to expedite.

While Jim and I are and have been without regular income, I do not want to suggest that the cases we want to file are of that nature. With one possible exception, one I've not mentioned, all are for money. In the New York area, that is.

Even simple legal research may sometime be of great help. Jim, who is a night person, works close to around the clock, as until this phlebitis I did for more than a decade. His normal getting-up time is about 10:30 except when he has to be in court when, somehow, he makes it. On the other hand, he may work until 6 a.m., as yesterday, when he was awakened at 9 a.m. by a call from a Senate committee.

What dependable lawyers you know where may be a help. If you know anyone skilled in publishing law and not practising for publishers only that could be a great boon.

If your field is civil law, after you have read these books I would urge you to read Frame-Up, the one you did not order. It is not by any means what is now the entire story but it will give you a good grasp on a case in which the civil-suit potential is extraordinarily good for a skilled lawyer. In any event, I do appreciate the offer, very much. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg