7/2/71

Dear Mary,

Unless my memory, which does fail, deceives me, you onc e expressed at least an uneasiness about Ivon. If there is any reason why he cannot or shpuld not be trusted, I'd sure like to know if it is possible. I can anticipate an area in which you could not tell. I can also understand it is a hunch, not based on certain knowledge. Right now I trust him, as I have, and I do not want to make a mistake.

There is, as of now, no doubt that Jim was either framed or entrapped. You are the only other one of us I think does not have to know anything to understand what it is that Gervais had done and what it means for him. I can't conceive of him spending the rest of his life as this means without someone having a remarkably potent pressure to apply against him.

This matter is so transparent that the paper that is perhaps Jim's most persuaded enemy believes there is something fishy. Pershing has been spirited out of New Orleans, apparently by the FBI, and esconced under an assumed identity in some plush motel. He will be a Velachi without bars from now on. There will be an enormous taxpayer expense in keeping him, in style, in security. I am sure you understand they do not anticipate vengeance from Jim or his friends.

If I think I know Pershing and can't conceive of him doing this without enormous pressure, something only slightly less that certainty he'd be killed, perhaps the certainty he'd spend the rest of his life in jail, I also think that much as the government has said, it has said less than all it can or will. I do not regard Alfords resignation as separate and detached from all of this. He was handling such cases. We also know where Jim bought his home, things like that. As of my last knowledge, he owed almost all of the original mortgage, which is not consistent with having all that moola coming in for so long.

You know how I feel and have felt about Jim. But I can't easily conceive of him in the role of a crook, especially not for peanuts.

Although I did not anticipate this in any way. I knew something fishy was going on there. You may recall my concern for the illegalities, as I saw them, being visited upon Marcello, as Bud also should.

So, if there is anything you can tell me, please do. I may be working with people I haven't worked withbefore and want to make no mistakes. Aside from the foregoing, et me tell you more than has not appeared in the papers. This was carefully rigged to get maximum attention and detract from the unfavorable publicity of the Pentagon Papers. Mitchell made the announcement immediately after his speech to the FBI Academy graduation, when he knew that it and more, the presence of the President, would have maximum press present. When pushed privately, the IRS said they had nothing severe on Gervais and they had not paid him a cent.Sweet-sounding Rosemary James asked an entrapping question on TV. I heard it on NBC and CBS. (She did what she could to kill O in NO)....To this I'd add the belief that the government is desparate on a number of counts (meaning the administration). They are capable of anything. In the false name of conservatism they are rewriting the Constitution and eliminating the most basic rights. It is worse than appears in the papers, if yours indicates this. They now require Hoover's services for what they are up to,and he has scores he wants to settle. If Jim did not bring one single, substantial fact to light about Hoover, he did talk much against him, and being without fact may well have made the old man even more vindictive...Anyway, if there is any light you can shed, please do. Best to you all. Hope Buck is getting along well and that you'll be here soon. Lil's leg is making good progress. I do not fear leaving her alone for short periods. In fact, I talk a long, hard walk as soon as we have breakfast most mornings, then take a quick swin bfore returning to work. Sincerely,