

Paul

9/17/68

Dear Lou,

The attached is from the midnight 9/19/68 appearance with Roy Cohn and Herman Fine on the WBBB-TV (Chicago, Channel 7) "Off the Cuff" Show. I have only recently received a transcript from a friend.

I do not know a single appearance which does not, in one form or another, say this, including one show I gave him that I taped in the studio. Where there seems to be greatest likelihood of it getting back, or where there is pressure, the form is that there are special, secret files that you alone have. From what has come to my attention, that is rare, this is the common form.

I am not a lawyer, so I do not know the legalities involved. I do know something about public relations, and if this is not ruinous as a matter of law it is in public relations.

The second attachment is from the "Extension 720" show, the next night, 8 p.m., 9/21/68, with the same moderator, Norman Ross. It is pretty obvious that the agents are not in the control room to get closer to all that hot new evidence Mark has dug up, for he has never done any of that and they know it only too well. They can, as his comment here concludes, tape him off the air. I suggest that the reason they do this with him and Mort alone is to have eyewitnesses who can take the stand, not just cold tapes. This, I believe, is not alone for what they say but because of their close friendship with Jim, on which each in his own way is always trading.

I think it would serve no good purpose to show this to Jim. He would likely misunderstand my motive and not believe that you asked me to send it. I know of nothing you can do about it but be prepared for Dymond and Wegmann on their next tirade. Going along with this is an unvarying and deliberately false representation of that "guns between Bobby and the White House" bit that he knows he is stealing because he knows the whole story, did the first time he tried to use it. I tell you that what chance there was of any of Bobby's people ever talking to us is now gone. They have to be suicidal to dare in the face of this. I also tell you that approaches had been made to several after I learned this and other things that, fortunately, I did not tell Jim. There is a remote chance something may still come of the other things. Yet I am satisfied that one of the reasons, if not the only one, that a lawyer friend of one of these people who had indicated willingness to undertake some legal work, has backed off is that he fears he'll next hear

about it on a TV sales pitch for Mark's book. By the way, persuasive as the second one seems to be about the publishers and all of that, it is of incredible falsity and dishonesty. Together with this is actionable plagiarism rather poorly disguised by spurious footnotes to entirely non-existent documents. If the other side knew what I do about his work, they could really ruin us with it. If the time comes when I feel I both must and can do something, I am prepared and I will. There is neither enough money nor credit for that disreputable bastard, he has to steal and use other people's property. You'd be surprised, knowing him as you do, how holy he can be about all of this.

With this complete lack of scruple and a vaunting but well-hidden ego (which he is careful to attribute to others), the hazard is great. He is also going around with personal campaigns that he does not air but spreads among those working with us that, in effect, are efforts for the other side. He has done some of this with those whose relations with me he did not understand, so it has come back to me. I am satisfied that with some people it has eliminated the possibility of cooperative work.

He sized Jim up accurately and immediately. I have the things he said, publicly, and wrote, before he first got to New Orleans. He was, then, going to run the show, give Jim every thing he had, like Bertrand being a New Orleans lawyer. Once he met Jim and knew he couldn't pull that he decided to play Boswell.

I made and make no special effort to get this sort of thing. These transcripts came to me without my asking for them or even knowing of their existence. We have some genuine friends who undertake serious, not synthetic, risk on our behalf. They, too, are deeply disturbed, particularly those with journalistic experience, for they well know the potential. This lends itself to a treatment much more serious and potentially troubling than the Epstein piece. It is not beyond possibility that what he is adding to his book version is such material. Several young college friends of mine who were heckling Epstein once when he spoke at a large university, not theirs, were suddenly confronted by two FBI agents they thought were travelling with him. These wonderful kids first fled and then phoned me.

If you want me to keep you posted on such things, I will. Otherwise, I will make no mention of them. My only interest in them is security. That has already been so well breached I think what follows may be with little significance.