

My point here is not a threat, either. It is again a reality that becomes a very real threat because of what "Bud" does and does not do, not because of me.

At some point he, if he stays, is going to be in exactly the position you handle so effectively with Foreman. He has been in it all along, except for me.

And I'm not going to remain in the position in which I have been about money with which to do the relatively inexpensive investigating that has to be done still. I am never again going to let him be in a position to insult and abuse me about it, either. And I think I'm also going to insist on pay, at the same rate he pays Ken, for his responsibility in a criminal case is no less than that for facts in civil cases.

I was troubled by two aspects of this: the reality, that Bud has been guilty of the same offenses you charge so well; and the fact that if I called this to his sick mind he'd read a threat into it. So, I omitted it. But with a man who allowed himself to be rational I certainly would not have.

Down the road there lies these needs. I think you, too, should be aware that at some point we will have to face them and in the back of your mind have the question: "how?" Under what conditions? If he again refuses an absolutely necessary investigatory expense what will we do?

Martin made a ^{John} ~~John~~ about seeing bridges to cross that were never crossed. We came to very few. But where we fell because we didn't see the bridge, in most cases was it that I hadn't seen the bridge. I see this one and I intend to begin holding Bud to the agreement he made at the outset. We haven't done all this work just to let him fuck it up to indulge his concept of self. And ~~his~~ ^{his} isn't going to be hostage to his emotional needs.

I don't anticipate any need to have anything to do with Bud for the immediate future so I won't. He can do whatever he wants about the Playboy situation. But I also have and will use my freedom of judgment. If Bud doesn't straighten his head out and give good, solid tangible proof of it then he will have none of my decisions for me. I have no intention of arguing with him about this or the money he owes me or anything else. He has it already wasted too much time for me.

The sacrifices of the past are over, too. I had no copies of Frame-Up with me when I could have sold them to people who wanted and needed them. I had none of the new book when it earned our interest very much for me to have copies for the press. And I stayed off camera when being on would have been legitimate and the natural promotion of the new book also would have been.

For what he did and didn't do? Never again!

I think I carboned you, but if I didn't, prior to hearing from Jim I asked him to send me what "Bud" asked for, what they have in mind. Were I not convinced that the Jimmy interview is right, proper, necessary and the best approach I'd be pushing Jim to do a story and an angle one that would also be honest.

Sincerely,