

Dear Bob,

Watz

7/31/80

I've just heard that Mark Lane has filed a \$12.2 million suit against Mother Jones and I suppose you. He never lets one of thomany he files go to trial because if he ever should win, which is dubious, he'd not survive the damages test, with his record and he'd be lucky to get 6¢.

It would be great if Mother Jones has the spunk to file a counter suit. Or if, with diversity of citizenship and damages over \$10,000, you could in Boston.

I can make an enormity of information available, and a very considerable volume of tapes, ~~xxxx~~ not one of which I made myself.

He once was telling others he'd sue me. So I wrote him and said if what has gotten back to you is not enough, you are also a crook, a plagiarizer, a nonstop liar and many other things. I added that if he did not consider these enough for him to file his promised suit I could undoubtedly survive the displeasure of thinking more about him and would then provide him more in writing. Since then no such cracks have gotten back to me.

Any trial of Lane would make a book and it would sell.

It could also be the most hilarious thing ever.

Hope you are making out well.

Best wishes,

Lane Sues Magazine

Lawyer Mark Lane filed a \$12.2-million libel suit yesterday in U.S. District Court against a California magazine which published what he claims was a defamatory article about him in August, 1979. The suit was filed against Mother Jones Magazine of San Francisco, several officials of the publication and the author of the story. The suit asks for \$2.2 million in actual damages and a \$10 million in punitive damages.

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