

P.S. Jerry,

2/28/77

While I was foling the letter up the humor of what you actually said straight-faced hit me. I ripped a gut laughing and then decided to ask you about it.

Lane and Freed are going to get to the bottom for Jimmy? Wow!

Lane is a lawyer. He is long on south and short on balls, except with pins and needles for them. I've known this for years.

The end of 1966 he made one of his customary mistakes from running off at the mouth. Mostly people ignore it but that time it was a lawyer who said Mark was a liar. Mark made a big deal over saying he would sue him. Well the one kind of suit nobody can use is from calling Lane a liar. So this lawyer, who use to be on the Warren Commission, kept getting on radio and TV and asking when Mark was going to file the suit. Mark kept running away with a childish excuses until finally two of his friends asked me to go out to California and take that lawyer on and shot him up. I did it too. That is one of the reasons Mark does not like me. That Warren Commission lawyer fed four straight agreed-to confrontations with me, the last on Louis Lomax's show. That shut him up for a while. When he started up again I caught up with him on TV in Los Angeles. Mark was staying away. I had not been in bed for two days, could hardly walk and was not what I usually am but I then shut him up period.

He ran off at the mouth about me on radio in Washington January 25/ People called up and asked the station to have them call me and for Mark and me to square away right then and there. He refused, right on the air where everybody could hear him. I heard about it and I asked for time to respond. They gave it to me. I also asked them to have him ready to defend himself. They never could get through to him. He was not there when I did respond. He will not accept the invitation for both of us to be there together and have it out. I'll cover any bet you make. And here I am almost 64 years old. He is yellow, all mouth and all that comes from it is bullshit. This is the real reason Sprague personally is in trouble and the committee is too. You may not know it but he and Sprague are not buddies any more. He is trying to latch on to the lightweight Gonzalez. All he cares about is money and personal attention. Ask Jim if you do not believe me. He has no single real accomplishment to his credit. He is using both of you. As I've told you he has already published that Jimmy was the killer and copped a plea to escape the chair. I know damned well he never told any of you that. He figured you'd never see a magazine that is supposed to be for scholars, published out where Freed lives.

So I'm wondering what kind of line he suckered both you and Jimmy with. McMillan didn't fool you, although you were not wise in the way you behaved. So what kind of baloney did he fill you up with? What kind of promises did he make you and Jimmy that you fell for? He could not hack it in a jail for a week. Somebody would let him have it. So with all the experience the two of you have had win con artists how in the world did you swallow his line and the sinker with it? What was the bait?

If his book is on schedule it will not make any difference. I'm just curious. With books they have copies in the hands of reviewers in advance. Generally a book is in print, either in proofs or bound, a couple of months before it is to be out so the reviewers can read it and have it in the papers before the books are in the stores. And it takes some time to get them ordered, boxed, billed and shipped. So his book should have been done before now. It is past the point where it can be changed. I'm not saying anything about it in public - I know where he lies and what he lies about - so that when the time comes maybe I can protect Jimmy against this foolish thing he has done, with your help. If I said anything he'd be able to correct it, as he has with several things he just made up. But I must say I never believed that a couple of men who have been around as you and Jimmy have been, have had your experiences and lived through all that time in tough jails, would let yourselves be slick-talked by a pointy-head. This is why I really am curious to know how he pulled it off.