

Dear Jerry,

2/28/78

Your 2/25 came today. You begin with Marjorie and a speech about your personal life having nothing to do with the case. I don't give a damn about your personal life.

I'm not confused. I know you don't come from Indiana. But you are a Hoosier just the same.

I don't know what Anderson told James and Mark but I do know what he aired. If you find some help in it for Jimmy, fine. Anderson did a turn-around? So why did any of you run that risk?

So Lane called you all broken up to tell you it was all his fault? Hoosier that you are, you told him even you make mistakes, not to worry! Fool - he said this before you and James could say it to him. He canned you again.

So Lane also took Flynt into to see Jimmy. I can remember when Jimmy didn't want anything to do with Flynt. That give Jimmy wings. He'll be a born-again hundred yearer.

I got the clipping, thanks. Sure he left out what you wanted in. But you have the sick notion that there was something to gain by running that risk.

You say that Eberhart and Waxman of the Assassins committee say that the hot files on King are locked up and even the committee can't get them. What give you and Jimmy the silly notion that there is anything in them that could help Jimmy? They were locked up on a judge's order because they are too nasty and personal to let out.

The UPI story I saw does James no good. The version I saw was in the Memphis paper. Other places it was even smaller.

You'll lay it on the line before the committee, for sure.

You are hungup on cross breeds. It is common in animal husbandry. Called hybrid vigor.

You don't have to thank Mark if he is a born again Christian. As long as he sees a benefit coming to him from Flynt he'll be born again- and again- and again. But I didn't think he'd carry it as far as going to church at Oak Ridge.

I know the judge threw the case against McWilliam et al out. I also know it is because you signed a release. How come Mark didn't ask and advise you on that? And how come you signed such a ~~stupid~~ release. Legal genius that you've been telling me you are.

I can imagine how much good it did you and Jimmy for you to write tough letters to the judge and send a copy to the assassins committee.

You say "we have some difficult days ahead, especially before the assassinations committee." First sensible thing you said, even if you don't act it.

How why do you think that the four people you met in Savannah told you that all of them had been subpoenaed to testify before the committee? And all they were asked is what you talked about? You and Stoner? Doesn't this remind you of what I told you to begin with - and you would not listen to. ...Once a Hoosier, always a Hoosier, that's you.

You go into what may or may not be in your FBI files and how they gave Carol a line of b.s when she asked for hers and Mark Lane telling you what they can and cannot do. You are a fool, and you start telling the committee what they can and cannot do and you sure will go to jail for contempt, as you say you are ready to do for a year. Here you say that because of I know of Marjorie Petters I must have gotten your personal files. I didn't. I wrote you long ago, after John made a mistake and asked for his or his own and only got part of them, and told you that Jim would fight it through if you gave me an okay to go ahead. You did not do this and Carol and Albert didn't so I forgot about that. Without your permission they can't give me yours or Carol's. So I've learned what I've learned in spite of all of you and not from your personal files, which I've not gotten from the FBI.

Your baby boy speeches about what you will do before the committee and how your fellow badass Mark Lane will do the same before the committee is going to get you in real trouble. As I'm sure JB will tell you, you have very few rights before the committee. The one real one, given what they have been doing, is the fifth amendment, and that will make you and Jimmy look bad now. You have done wrong up to now and have to live with that. But you have Hotshot Mark to represent you so I'll say no more-except that you have already indicated you do not know some of the few rights you do have.

Now, after more than a year of arguing otherwise and telling me that the committee was going to get Jimmy out, you blandly admit that they can't do anything for him. Then you turn around and actually repeat that their investigator, Waxman, told you "we're your brother's best friend." And to be this best friend he has to know where Jimmy got the money and all that, so Jimmy gave them Rosenson's name and phone number--what none of you would do with me years ago when it might have done Jimmy some good. Now you give whatever you give to these people after they have already said Jimmy is guilty, only none of you read or understand English, so when the Members make speeches on the floor of the House and issue reports in which they actually say this, that makes no difference. Of course it doesn't--Lane was in bed with them then.

You don't know what they found out about Rosenson? I'll tell you--that all of it is false, that it wasn't Rosenson. I suppose that is some of the stuff from Osborne and the rest of that gang. And Jimmy playing Perry Mason again. Nuthouse stuff. But they leaked the Rosenson stuff and I heard it on radio news long ago.

Again you say that there was a Jack Anderson doublecross and weep over how nice it was of Lane to call you up and take the blame for it as though he had any choice. I'm telling you what I told you before, any lawyer who let Jimmy take a polygraph ought to have his head examined by a shrink. That lawyer is crazy and doesn't know Jimmy. Jimmy can tell the truth and appear to be lying on those machines. Besides, Lane did not trouble himself to learn who who operate the machine. Get him to give you a rundown on Bugas and his past and his background. I have nothing to do with Anderson--never spoke to him--but I'm sure Lane lied and Anderson said exactly what Bugas told him. What do you expect Lane to do, tell you he messed up, of you up all over again?

You again go into Jimmy and publicity and again complain about being doublecrossed. You have swallowed Lane's line on this. We did get Jimmy wide attention. Only under us there never was what you now call a doublecross because there is a right way and a wrong way and we saw to it that there were ground rules under which there could not be this series of disasters you have had under Kershaw and Lane.

I did not know that Jimmy filed suit against Kershaw and that Kershaw had filed a counter-suit, including for \$5,000,000 against me for stealing his client. I think it would be a good idea to send Jim copies of all the records on this. The time may come when Jimmy may have to ask him questions and if he does not know all that has gone on he can't answer them. Jim doesn't have the time or the money to write to the courts for them. (I'd like to have one of Kershaw's T-shirts!)

You return to Patters and wonder how I know. I'll not tell you because you keep bad company and you and your company blabbermouth to the wrong people. I tell you again I don't care about your personal life and have no interest in that. Or in Jimmy's, about which I learned much without trying, just fell into it. But I guess you know that the FBI does not love me so they are not telling me things. Someday all of this will come to a real end. If then, in spite of your best and very stupid efforts over many years, you are still around--not in jail--I'll tell you all. While there is any chance of your blowing anything, no chance. I don't trust you. I know you are you are, not from the silly boastful speeches you make about yourself. You are a little boy trying to play in the big leagues where you can't even raise a bat. I doubt you'll let yourself learn before you feel the sting under your ass.

Sure you are welcome to come here when the committee has you in Washington, if your baby-sitter Lane will let you. There is Greyhound service and I'll meet the bus here and take you back to it. I can't keep my legs down long enough to drive to or from Washington any more. I may miss a reunion of some of the Senate investigators with whom I worked in the 1930s for this reason this weekend. You say JB wrote. His letter did not come today. I'll be in Washington the day before he testifies. I am in court in a suit against the FBI the morning of the 7th. Should not last long. I think I'll have a dental appointment that afternoon. Jim and I may have a little time between the two and maybe some after the dentist. I have not heard about that appointment. I think Jim will drive me home. If so and if they are there the day before they testify I'm sure Jim would be willing for them to be with us and talk to him and me coming up and to his going back. Please tell JB that he really should read the committee's reports, especially last year's and Jimmy.

3/1: It is snowing and there is much ice on my lane so I'm not taking any mail out to the box. With the medicine I'm on I'm not allowed to fall or bruise myself or cut myself so I can't take a chance

I've had a little chance to think about this and I'll tell you what I do think-

You are just blowing hard to make yourself seem important, especially to yourself.

I hope so because if you go in with that tough-guy act the committee will lynch you and you'll not be able to do anything about it. This will also hurt Jimmy and will help the FBI and the people who have been calling you Raoul.

If there is one thing that appears to be certain in all the years I've known you and Jimmy it is that neither of you learns from mistakes and both of you keep making the same mistakes over and over again.

When you can't but know that you have had what was going to happen and what was not going to happen laid out in advance and it comes to pass neither of you will allow yourselves to admit that to yourselves and thus you persist in the same mistakes.

Take the House committee. What you now can't avoid is exactly what I told you would happen. You and Jimmy both just could not believe it because you were like kids who saw a cookie bowl. No matter that there was rat poison in the bowl that said cookies, you wanted cookies to be in it so you ate the rat poison and told yourselves it was cookies.

Here you have Lane, who was largely responsible for this wrong attitude and stupid acts and you still talk about him as the best and the brightest, even after the latest Anderson stupidity, and you are unable to put 2 and 2 together. How useless is your brain if you can't look back and understand what happened and how it happened?

You pulled that dirty Kerahaw deal behind Jim's back and Kerahaw was a disaster and you don't learn from that? You didn't learn from pulling the Foreman deal? (I never told you but neither Jimmy nor you told me or Jim the full truth about that and your failure to do this may be the biggest single reason Perry Mason is still where he is. Don't ask me how I know but I do know.) Jim would have helped you get another lawyer if you wanted one because he wanted out but felt an obligation to Jimmy, as I also did. I, also telling you I think again that I went to see Jimmy with an Okay from Bud on getting a lawyer to handle civil suit and Jimmy would not authorize it. I had a Tennessee lawyer who was willing, one with a good record, too. So you all go off and file sure losers and then don't know what you are doing except that Perry Mason has a stroke of jailhouse genius and all of you bow your noses to the ground and do what he says just because he says it. None of it ever works but that also makes no difference. If he thinks he can make points against McMillan, who is a nothing, all the world turns on that idle gesture.

I don't want to take time for this and I think Jim should not but I do believe you would be doing the right thing to send him copies of this recent side litigation between Jimmy and Kerahaw and Kerahaw against Jimmy and Lane. As you can see neither Jim nor I takes time for any of that business and neither of us says a word in public about any of it. I do to you only, hoping you will leave a little neck left where you keep slicing away. But the time may come when you may have to ask Jim's advice and you'd better have him in a position to know what it is all about. If you don't want to take my word, JB is a lawyer and you can ask him.

If I wanted these things I'd just ask a friend in Tennessee to get them for me. It would cost a little but they are all public records and are available from the clerks.

I'm sorry for what you all have done to yourselves and keep on doing to yourselves. Like repeating the Playboy disaster with Anderson just because Lane puts you up to it. If I were not sorry for you I'd not take this time knowing that you are both so bullheaded seeing your own blood flow does not open your eyes or your minds.

Sincerely,