January 15, 1973

Dear Harold,

Received you comment today that the Watergate trial is going like a hastily-written cheap novel. But you left out the punch line: the novel was written by E. Howard Hunt. Unfortunately, Hunt's co-defendants forgot to read the novel, so Hunt has had to personally urge them to follow his lead.

I am enclosing several items for you in a separate envelope. Some you already have. I've sent along a copy of the stipulations which was filed in the civil suit. Haile asked for them and Bud said to send them, but I've had second thoughts about doing it. When I told Haile we'd join him in a motion to discover all copies of the stipulations from Canle's office, he dodged this suggestion and again asked me for our copies. I responded by asking if he couldn't get them very quickly and easily from Canale. He said, "but I'm asking you." I told him we'd supply our copies if he'd send Canale's copies. His reply was, "I want to see your copies first."

This may mean that they don't have any copies of the stipulations. It is evident from the wording of the Answer that Haile hadn't personally read any copy of the stipulations at the time he wrote the Answer. I believe the stipulations were drawn up in Canale's office, so it seems they should have copies, at least carbons. Is it possible they don't? My thought is that if we supply our copy of the stipulations without getting theirs, Haile will then be able to attack Jimmy's credibility on the grounds that he says there were at least three versions of the stipulations but only one version can be produced. What do you think? The whole issue may not be that important, as if the guilty plea was coerced, the stipulations are meaningless. Still, we do have to worry about anything which affects Jimmy's credibility.

I will write you tomorrow about what Jimmy sent me on the civil suit. Or rather, I will send you the materials on it which he sent me. If I find this material today, I'll send it along with today's batch.

I'm also sending a copy of Foreman's February 5 motion to get the State to agree to stipulations. I think this may be an important piece of background to the stipulations that has been neglected up to now.

Best regards,

Jim

Dear Jim,, Your letter of the 15th opens with agreement with my comment that the WG trial is going like a hastily-written cheap novel. You add that I "left out the punch line, the novel was written by E. Howard Hunt." As a joke, good. Reality, I don't think so. This is now and has for some time been out of his class and hands, I believe. It is now a play, he is a player, but the Nixonian scripting if From Above....I don't know what happened, but I doubt it was secret from the Cubans. They and Hunt had a special relationship. I'm sure Barker at least was in on all of Hunt's plans. From Barker's own admissions, he has been working on Rothblatt for 10 days, from before Hunt's plea was public. So, they did know. I'm sure when Hunt then spoke to him, he laid out all that had to be said and done and how, thus the excess gestures in court yesterday, noted by ever reporter whose copy I've read. They took each other on faith for a long time and I suppose that with the strange thinking of the right extreme, they probably believe Hunt is a sainted genius, only misunderstood.

On the Ray/Huie possibilities, I think it is possible to show willfulness. In context, I think this would be malice. Libel is tricky today, but Huie's is an exceptional case. That NY TV confrontation could hang him. I have the unedited tapes. How he blew! I've got so much on Bill Huie saying he is Jahway Huie it would be memorable if a good lawyer had a chance to cross-examine him. Just a drawn out, "Did you say" or "did you write" and then read. He really has that self-concept. He is a true Believer in the Infinite Perfection of God Huie. And he blows so very easily. His arrogance is incredible. He had a chance to have Mamie Stover a movie. He wouldn't dream of an experienced screen-writer doing the job. He had to do the script. It was no good. It was returned to him with specific requests for changes. When he finished it and turned it back it, it was the same, defective script. And thus no movie. The guy he was dealing with is a friend of mine. My info is first-hand. That is the way he is, and under pressure, there is no lawyer who could hold him back. He'll blow. His ego can't take the tiniest scratch. I've done a little blowing myself and I've seen others do like Vesuvius, but nothing like Huie when I asked him what difference the name of the whore Ray laid in Portugal meant, or how much he paid another in Mexico: the crime was in Memphis, so please tell us about your Memphis investigation. When he erupted I just sat back and smiled and enjoyed every expletive. I didn't once try to interrupt him then, either. Beautiful. So, I hope you can restrain Jimmy and that this can be done. It would really be great. HW 1/16/73