Dear Jim, 3/11/75

As you must have realized when you told me that Bud had recommended you for a Congressional spook investigating job (you really should have a Congressional directory so you can look for Anguses outside of butcher shops) I was, for me, rather silent.

Then I told you that after you made your decision I'd discuss some aspects with you.

Then you raised a few questions and I responded to them.

Later I decided to write you what I now feel and either lay that aside or mail it marked not to open until after you decide.

I was and remained unease. Instead of trying to work I've been catching up on reading because I'll soon have more.

But this remained in my mind andwithout conscious thought about it I decided that you have made your decision and anything I might say would not influence it. So, there are some other considerations I will address, where I think you may be inclined to a more charitable view than I am ready to believe is either probable or justified.

To now there is almost nothing bad Bud has done that I can't attribute to his crazy ambition or his sick ego. All his craziness has been consistent.

His recommending you is inconsistent except not as craziness.

Nobody with Bud's experience is unaware of security checks. Bud knows what would happen to you and how much worse it would be if you were put on the job prior to completion of a check. Eepecially with those being investigated doing the checking.

He has lived through too much of this not to have thought of it.

He cannot have had any federal connection of his own without a security check because he cannot have been federally employed until after that program began.

So he proposed what for him was a no-lose deal.

But your even starting on the job helps his sick self-concept if only because it weakens you chance to succeed where he failed. I think he would find your winning the new spectro case, as you will, intolerable. I think he will be less than pleasedif you pull the Ray case through after he has messed it all up even when he knew better. If I had not been there he'd have messed it up even more.

If you take that job and there is no check he is assured that both cases fail and he will not have to face the fact that a lawyer who has yet to appear before a jury succeeded where he failed. If you are off either case for a while you get so much farther behind in everything all is thereby endangered.

And, of course, there is always the chmce that youthful indiscretions can be overlooked.

I don t think it is safe to pass this off as Bud's unthinking act of intended friendship.

However, there is still another aspect you should examine. Wherein lies your long-range greater benefit? If you join the staff you'll almost certainly be the most junion of juniors among the lawyers. Only those fresh from the campus will be as or more junior. You'll probably have work for which outside the staff you'll not be known. With or without having to make compromises. At best a Member might take a shine to you. That could mean something to you now only if you have career intentions it could help.

On the other hand, despite the immediate cash problem, you have cases that for you are no-lose cases. If you lose you lose nothing except what success could mean. If you win, what can they do for you? In terms of

cash now and of reputation.

All of this is if you get the job. If you appky and don't you might be disspirited by it.

You should also look ahead to a day when you will be looking back and probably re-examining this differently, when your decision will be of the past. Your decision can be influenced by your perception of your present greater need. In retrospect you may ask yourself other than now about the obligations you have undertaken.

Will you at some later date be completely satisfied that if you go for the job it was in all respects the proper choice?

Assuming Bud was impulsive. He had time to think it over. He is an experienced man whose irrationalities are pretty much channeled into one area. He knows that there will come the kind of time I've suggested above. It must have happened to him often enough and I'm sure it happens to most lawyers. Why, then, is he doing this? All pure motive, all in your best interest, all altruism only?

If Bud thought of you or anyone else this way he'd have hired you at least part time before you passed your bars. Instead he used you free and went without the other things for which he could have used the kind of help you could have rendered. The cost to him would have been so little it would have been next to nothing/

I have taken much from Bud. I have always attributed so much rotten personal behavior to his subject irrationality and his sick sefl-concept.

Beginning with Memphis this has become less easy. Some of it I just can't tell myself can't be anything more. He has been a wrecker, not just hungup.

I had a long account of theO'Toole press conference of yesterday from Lonnie. And an account of the book. My prior analysis is essentially correct, it errs in not anticipating that O'Toole might have unfriendly words about the FBI. He was less subtle than I'd imagined. He condemns everyone except the CIA.

I know there wasz a time when Bud is supposed to have had the ms. Hzttz can he possibly have missed this?

Maybe there is nothing to all of this and all else that coincides. Maybe there is no more than coincidence in all of this. I am uneasy because so much is so consistent and at such crucial timing. Also because I am uncertain about the meaning of so much and certain there is too much of which I have no inkling.

Lonnie is to come here Thursday. It would be better if you have to call to let it wait until after supper (our time). If there is something important by all means call.

I did not write Robert and Jerry. ABC did not call back. I do not take a failure to call back tomean there has been a decision or that it is other than I'd prefer. It can be but it need not be.

There is one you can chalk up for us. Schoenmann is now out of it. And I did not hear from Robert or Jerry.

Mow back to Leigh James and the not unfamiliar little touches of overwriting, over-describing and unintended self-disclosures I find not at all unfamiliar.