Dear Jim, Wednesday 11/26/74

The purpose of the enclosures is to make rectification of serious error less unlikely and to give Lesar the chance to put it on me when I won't be there. I'm not sending it to him until he files and he's pushed too much on that. In fact, I'm staying away entirely even if it means mistakes I could correct because it is the lesser evil. He has been under pressure much to great. However, if he decides to use what I'm sending him, there will be reading between the lines.

My purpose in sending you confidential copies is not to burden you but to help you with a project that is worthwhile, can be unique and socially very useful and because in the extremity I see not far in the future we're going to need some kind of help and you may be able to reach it.

The whole thing is so unreal! Memphis despite the fine record was really a fiasco. Martin will tell you I wanted to get together with him afterward and try to recapture some of it on tape. He and Nick, thanks to both, saw my need for emotional release but not the real cause. Wasn't Haile! (I'm still fighting with him by mail and making a record we'll use at some point. Meanwhile, Jimmy reports no more overt mail tampering. One of my letters wasn't even opened in his presence!)

I realize some of the risks in this. Including coming accross as you and yours as a nut. The risks are essential. We can lose with a superb record and it is possible. I can see how. I saw before the hearing and Bud was to have taken the precautions and didn't.

Bud is a natural coward. He has been trying to cop out for a long time. He would have on all but financial crookedness in Memphis & if I'd not lit into him and really threatened him with what he dared not face. He knows me well enough to know I'd do it. But to him I'm not saving him from himself. I'm an enemy. Not only is he lazy but he is having to take a little- and I mean relatively very little- time from what can mean money. And it is costing him some. So, he wants out. He may get him back up at me and try to force me out.

Meanwhile, I'm giving him all he needs whichever way he wants to go, and all the encouragement needed to decide. With what I could no longer avoid in Memphis as soon as I nudged him a bit about some of his cheaper chiselling. This gave him the choice of being decent or picking a fight and me the reading the choice would give. With the reading I persevered on principled issues and elected to show resentment when it was more than justified. That did it.

I hate this and the situation but I see no real choice now. I'd love to be out. It is, however, too much for Jim and to dangerous for Jimmy and what he has come to represent.

I don't have to tell you what the needs of promoting and selling a new book are. But what I've done I've had to do without leaving home, when others pay the phone bills, too.

More, there is a Senatorial plan for a Spring hearing in which some of my new Watergate stuff in the almost-completed but unread draft is of enough interest for that well-known Senator to be sending a staffer up here tomorrow. So my need with this book is also clear.

So my personal, selfish interest also calls for getting out.

Anyway, if as never before, you're being backgrounded. Perhaps you can now see why in Memphis I encouraged a reversal of order in interviews?

When Jim has finished the papers on which he is working, to be mailed by the end of this week-and he's going to have to be his own typist, too - if there is time before we get Haile's that we'll both go to work on fast and hard he'll be starting to draft motions to overcome Bud's deficiencies, cowardice, baskings out and general fucking up of how it all should have begun.

But do you have to know more than that he was vacationing abroad instead of preparing for the hearing and has absented himself for the entire period of the preparation of the immediate papers?

Best,