Lesar - other under Yuletide Massacre
12/30/73

That crazy, egomaniacal animated stupidity Bud is the biggest lemming since Garrison. Saving him from himself is close to impossible and it is an impossibility for which at some near point I must steel myself again.

This kind of thing is very wearying to me, more than the hours, because it is a heavy emotional drain. If I think that I have done as much as possible toward blocking what is under way, I am not sure and we could have done more and he alone has impeded it. I find it easier to cope with the government than with him.

Last night, after taking Lil shopping only too late for the thing she wanted to do most because we had to sit and wait for Bud (store closed) I sat and thought about this and what to do. I had hated to take the time and gas to drive on these errands as soon as we spoke and it inspired a new feeling of futility from which I have escaped. Were it not for what it would have done to you and Lil I'd have written Bud a letter in which I d have sympathized with his financial desparation and have included a buck so that the next time he has to use the phones he could afford it.

I think I know why he was so utterly unconscionable. He is again indebted to me for doing what he could not see or do and it galls him, making him dislike me more. But that he is so shameless that he would not take a one-mile detour and instead asked you to take several hours from work while he is sporting around and then also drive 100 miles is too much too much.

Anyway, I decided that I had to cue Livingston in a bit more. So, I begin the day with the enclosed letter to him.

He and you and I may be in this alone for a while. He is the only one on the spot so he has to know more. You and I won't be with him after he sees Jimmy.

Bob is easy to work ~~xxxx~~ with because he assumes there is much each of us can't know and he is ~~xxxx~~ appreciative when he gets free what he does not know. Also, he has seen me work with Jimmy, and under the most adverse circumstances, our first meeting, and he has seen me investigate in Memphis. He wanted me with him to do what he fears trying and to supply the knowledge he does not have. Or, he is a decent, responsible man who is not eaten by a sick ego and does want to do his job as best he can. You saw how willingly he accepts help and how well he can use it before Judge Williams, his emotuonal and reasonably factual exposition of the conditions Jimmy had to then suffered. He took to this without argument whereas Bud rejected it when I gave it to him as the first approach to Williams. Each time Bud is proven wrong he dislikes those who are right even more instead of learning. I don't think we will even be able to cope with this to the degree success requires. You also saw his comulsion to frustrate it the other day, when I got him to write out a simple statement to which he would limit himself and he and Bill as well as you and I agreed to it. As soon as we were not with him he departed from it badly and potentially hurtfully. If Jimmy sees it he cannot but dislike it. When it was on the AP wire, Jimmy has a good channce.

By the way, Paul did not call back when I left a message and explanation with Barry. So, I left it at that and it is just as good because the Post used the earlier quotes from Foreman, providing me the lead on which I worked. Barry did ask me how I can keep it all in mind when he can't with one major subject and I told him, "I can't." I do find it a little unusual that the Post did not personalize because of Jerry's approach to them but we are better off for it. The Star has slight mention of those negotiations.

To the degree emotions permit, I think we should ignore this latest abomination and try another seeming impossible, find a way of working around it as I did with Larry and Waldron. If I can't assure that I will succeed (and his assault on myself;-respect is one of the not easily controlled factors) I will try. Perhaps if you get the chance you might consider filling Bill in. At the earliest manifestation, back when there office was at 927, Bill was receptive and understanding. If we could make right moves now, we could turn the tables. Bud makes it impossible. We now have more than one judo point and Bob agrees that there is no probability of departing from ethical standards in using them. Bill felt otherwise, as you may recall.

I added a few things in the enclosed memo to Bud for which I took working time to save his playing around time. Keep it. Do not give it to him. One factor that might influence him is being kept uninformed except where he must be. And if Bob calls and he thinks it is necessary to say something, I'll leave it to him if I talk to Spain, Brinton, etc. Larry is on vacation and I think Waldron is. Martin is to be here several days next week.