Dear Jim,

5/7/74

Your 3el mailing came today. I read most of it while wiaiting for Howard, who missed his bus connections in Baltimore for whom I will shortly go to town again.

You failed to mark the crazy stuff confidential, as I'd suggested. I'll do it. I read all of that. It is at once amusing and insane.

However, I think I see in it a way of helping Bud with his problem, one that need not require my having read all thus sick stuff.

I think also that I see at least one and perhaps two things that could be of considerable importance in other areas, like WG. This will have to await our face-to-face discussion.

I am not offended by the single reference to me. I smiled when I read it. But on the way home, with time to think, my mind turned to it again and I'd like you to think of it without regard to me or my feelings, taking the two separate expressions and examine them in terms of Bob's basis of knowledge (ignore the warning about Sprague). You should know that except for what is improperly in CTIA files of mine, what Bob can know is restricted to what I have published, what you have heard me say to him or in his presence, what you know I told him about Farewell, and not from examination of any one of all my files because when he came here for that purpose, even then he did not crack one. With regard to the press, except for Fred Graham it is not possible that he has had any intercourse with any reporter with whom I have exchanged words because there is none. So, I find myself wondering if he was feeding those he refers to. You have been with me when I conferred with several and in each case the situation was touchy, as in general it is not, so you have personal knowledge of how I handle myself. (By the way, I spoke to Plissner last night, reminding him of his unkept promise. I had called during the day and he returned that call.)

I am aware that there is this dislike. I have had a few spats in the distant past, none involving any active today. (Two others told me yesterday they will be coming soon.) But I am not aware of anything other than what Hiag invoked that can cause this. One possible exceptions is CTIA, aside from those we have already discussed. Thus the kind of provoked a little curiosity. What Bob can mean by "stuff" I can onlyimagine, but what I can't imagine is any published "stuff" by anyone that has withstood as much testing or had as much confirmation particularly because it is so controversial and officially unwelcome. You have had your own opportunities to check my accuracy. You also know Bob better than I do. So, I ask that you ponder this and see if you can find explanations. Best,