Dear Jim, Ray, but not of sunshine 2/13/77

Figuring these types is never easy. It is less so with the obvious deterioration in Jimmy's though t processes. This is further complicated by the fact that all of them have obvious emotional problems. Then there is never any way of knowing when Jerry is being honest and when he is living a part in a self-conceived play that exists in his head except when he is in touch with me.

What I am getting at is whether you want to force issues now and get out or whether you do not or whether you want to postpone decision. I think a combination of the first and third alternatives represents Jimmy's best interest now and the proper course for you unless you decide what I think you have every right to, just to get out and say so.

Jimmy has just had a good chance to fire you or to ask you to get out and he did not take it. To me this means that he does not want it. I have the feeling that he wants to hold onto us both and still hopes for some benefit from Lane, without any real illusions about Lane now.

I also believe that he still has a lingering vision of a straw for grasping with what they call the Sprague committee. I'm certain they expect help from public attention only now and this as what Freed and Lane represent to them. Although he talks about what he h s heard Lane say that he likes to hear Jerry is clear enough on understanding that he is not the epitome of probity.

One of the problems is how irrational Jimmy is. By now he has to be aware that everything I told him about the committee has been proven true. He has to know they call him the assassin and that they are in shakey condition. But he has a very serious and not uncomplicated ego problem. He has come to consider himself a legal genius and a manipulator of people and events.

He now says that Lane came to see him on invitation as Freed's representative. I rather suspect that Lane has talked him into this and that Jimmy either did not understand what Lane was up to,knew that the first approach had been by Freed and they had a prior relationship, of both. But there is no possibility that this was in Lane's mind at the time from his radio blabbing. (I have asked my source to dub a separate tape of that entire show for you and a separate dub of that part only.I have the dub provided me contemporaneously.) Whatever the explanation, he ducked and Lane went to see him if not entirely over this issue then in part because of it. His book should be in type and there should be bound proofs around by now if not by the last time Lane was to Brushy. I can't imagine Prentice-Hall in unorthodoxy. Orthodoxy requires a time spread for reviewing and blurbing from the reviews. Ordinarily this is 2-3 months. Shorten it and the crucial time is now or passed. We are about 7 weeks from pub date. This means by the time books are in the stores, which requires several weeks. There is little doubt a superspectacular if planned for 4/4, and it could include Ray's voice if not him on film. This is a separate problem.

While there are all kinds of problems for Jimmy from Lane one is different: the bar and judges will not regard him as they have the Haneses and Foreman.

None of the Rays ever understood - and I do mean Jimmy too - that his being part of a conspiracy makes him guilty. Jimmy knows the difference but that makes no difference to him for some reason, thus his sloppy writing to Eastland. While it is possible that Jimmy had a glimmer, I do not mean this. I go into this to make a point of the kind of hazard there can be from his having seen Lane, Lane's exploitation of it and the allegation that he met with a coconspirator in Portugal. It will fix in the public mind and the judicial mind that he was a coconspirator. More with Lane pretending to be his defender. And this is but one possibility. There are others.

With what I am putting tpgether the timing of this newest disinformation is particularly bad. We have to live with this.

It also means that we cannot tell Jimmy what we have. The danger of that is too great. There is no telling how it would be blown or misused.

Gping along with this is Jerry's inept civil suit. Haile has already responded effectively, moving for dismissal or summary judgement. He should get it. Jerry has read the response to me. As of the 10th he had not received McMillan or Time responses. I do not see a Knoxville juris diction under diversity with Jerry the plaintiff. If I am correct there will soon be more disillusionment, Jimmy should by now have some from his House expectations. Figuring a more desparate Jimmy presents hazards but it can mean more silliness. It always has in the past. And whether he lies or is truthful he cannot serve his own interest in going public now.

So I think that you do want to write him a firm letter, I do think it has to include his doing wrong after being warned and a new warning of the possible consequences. It should include a strong representation about the committee and Lane's association with it and these representation, which come from Fauntroy. Jimmy knows that Fauntroy said on the Today show what Lane says he told him to say. Lane boasted of it and Jerry was on the other end of a studio phone when it happened. I think you should ask who he thinks the source of the cononspirator story can be and what he has told Lane or anyone else that can be published. I think that without givin him any details you should remind him of his having been told there remain good legal possibilities, that these need not be in the distant future, and that the message was fortified in person by Jerry in November. That you are concerned about anything that in your opinion, not his, can adversely influence these possibilities. (He has known about them since 12/75 and in some detail in 1/76, when I told him. He just does not want to believe or remember, wants to be Perry Mason.) These things I believe are required in his interest as well as yours. I would also add a strong discouragement about any further talking for any public pmpose and what he has told Freed. Remind him that he says he sees Freed's representative after you warned him against Freed.

On the records themselves there are little bits and pieces that point but do not prove, that hint but go no farthur. One of these, as I've told you, gets to what I suspected was an early lie on which I trapped Jimmy into letting me know that he did lie. He did know New Orleans fairly well and either Rife lied about this or it was separate from his binge with Rife. I suspect the reason for his lying is not because it means he is a conscious conspirator but because he has put together in his own mind what can connect him to the crime and he fears nobody will believe he did not know. I've tried one of the very few solid types in New Orleans and got no more than an Xmas card. I can't go there and go farthur with another source to whom I will not write. This is one I'll call B. He is in my notes from earlier visits there, going back to 1968. Tnere is later, warm correspondence but this is not to be built upon for political reasons. However, I do have a Chalmette address that connects with some of the ellipsis in Frame-Up and now suggests possible significance re Raul.

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Reading the records I have been going over is persuasive that Jimmy did not expect the assassination or his involvement no matter how innocently or indirectly. An opposite belief can be argued but he left a trail nobody who had live his life of petty crime or spent his time in jail would have left. Everywhere but especially where he stayed, like Los Angeles. He is inept but he is not stupid. However, what I have spotted and what is suggestive means the most careful reading of reocords to come, especially any further FBI following up after people like Lomax and Huie. Throughout all of this those things Bud refused to do or enable me to do assume significance.

Best,