Jim, because I want to make a note of it and because I think it would help you to be able to understand the severe additional emptional strains I am now under and have been for several days (you may have to anticipate how I will react under stress), I'll tell you what my attorney in the helicopter began Friday for me by telling me. He had had a pre-trial conference with the Assistant US Atty and the judge in which the judge said there was no doubt that he would make me an award and the question was the extent of it. When the lawyers left the judge they discussed a settlement. The fink doubled his iandequate offer to the limit of what he can settle on his own. I refused even to consider it. Under my lawyer's pressure I did, without consulting Lil, who still knows nothing about it, agreed to reduce the net I will accept by about a third of the rock-bottom Lil and I had agreed on. Now there is no question about the fact and little real question if there were any willingness to compute. However, what makes my lawyer afraid and waht he was quite forthright about in leaning on me is what the federal attorney used to lean on him to get him to lean on me. DJ hates me so and is so determined to do whatever it can to hurt me that it opposes any settlement at all, preferring to bleed me and to put Lil and me through the wringer of a trailin which we will have so much to relive so painfully. Of course, it did influence me because I know what it will do to Lil. Howwver, I did not accept the government offer and did insist upon what would require DJ to consider and approve as an alternative to trial for I also can t let thme get away with this even once. But that they would not hide it from their own lawyer is a measure of their bitterness and their determination to hurt me. So, this tells you what I take into the Bud fiasco. it also tell you whxy they do nothing about mail fraud and why I think it is essential to begin an action against them for intrusion into and denial of my rights, for this is but part of it. HW 12/30/73