

9/12/70

Dear Jim,

I have just heard, with regret, of your continuing ill health. I had had no inkling of this. Had I, I would never have troubled you with mundane matters, not matter how important they are to me.

It has been so long since I have heard, even indirectly from anyone in your office, these things were totally unknown to me. The last I heard was when Mac told me you had to go back to the hospital because a minor infection had shown in your incision. This, apparently, was your first return to the hospital. To help you date it, Mac was then also talking of coming up here to rest and work a bit in preparation from some of the pending cases where I can help you - while there was still snow on the ground.

The total silence that suddenly ensued, with neither phone calls nor letters answered, led me to believe this was neither accident nor coincidence, and I've let it go at that. Especially because there was nothing in any of these things for me. They were all intended to be of use to you. You know, I wrote my New Orleans book before I went there for the first time. While I have since developed some significant information, and some of this since my last trip, I have other writing for which there is no time and I plan no other New Orleans book. I do, however, plan at least one New Orleans suit. It is drafted and when I have time I'll revise and file it.

However, I am sorry that your back trouble continues and that they are as persistent and uncomfortable as I have just been told. I do hope that the doctors will be able to give you relief, that they will be able to cure the problem soon.

Sincerely,

Mary-Leser told me yesterday that Jim is confined to bed, permitted to sit up only about 20 minutes a day and, if my recollection is not in error, has been hospitalized six times since his operation. However, I remain satisfied that a long time ago Jim passed the word and for this reason all communication was broken off. Everybody could not have fallen silent at one time when we were engaged in work together just spontaneously.... I have just heard from Jack Frazier that the FBI report in CE 2121 dealing with Mowie Cohen is, to Jack's knowledge, both accurate and complete. He knows nothing omitted, nothing added, he says. I wrote Jack about two months ago. He just answered. Jim wanted the question asked and I'm sending Paul the reply. The last communication with the office was their promise to get and send the NOPD Intel Unit files on Ferrie and IHO. Because you know the suit I plan, you understood the significance. They promised it and not a word since. I regret that I believe Jim pontificated a denunciation and told them not to communicate with me, for whatever imagined reason I've not even tried to guess.

Arnold Weisberg