

Bud-CTIA-Boggs-Ve
MF, PH, JNS, JCS, GRS, RB, HW, SM, HR 58

4/30/71

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If the carbons are as unclear as I anticipate, I may ask some of you to forward this.

What will probably be a breach between Bud and his committee and me is at hand. It comes from what I have, in varying degrees, informed some of you about in recent days, a combination of dishonesties, stupidities, arrogance, selfishness and a new hazard with which Bud, who dominates the committee, has confronted us. On the previous occasion, when I discovered it by accident, we were face to face, and although what ensued was grim, I was able to persuade Bud to abandon that one. This time he saw to it that we could not be face to face before he did what he did, then avoided me, hence, even after I learned about it, we could not be face-to-face. So, I was not able to persuade him to obey and relieve what he had done. Jim Lesar, who was worried, who is the only one who was privy, had doubts, and after the fact, was able to persuade Bud to let him send me a copy. Thereafter, when I told Jim what I would do if something were not done immediately to at least try and relieve the hazard, he came here. There was little trouble convincing him, for he is rational. He failed to persuade Bud and Bob, who just didn't care and wouldn't listen to reason. I gave Jim until noon yesterday to accomplish it, for I have to leave tomorrow and it required some letter-writing of me. I told him that I would require not just promises but a meaningful guarantee and that when he phoned me I would tape out conversation. I did.

Before I get into the serious part, let me give you what of me is an amusing illumination of the total futility of the CTIA as conceived and performing. When I went over that zany also-futility, the anonymous memo they (meaning Bud) gave Boggs, and Jim saw its nothingness plus its error, I asked, "Why didn't you consult the computer?" You may remember, they had this big deal about feeding everything into the computer. "Everything" is Smith's description, not mine. It included not SM's book, none of mine, but Tink's, Popkin's, Flammonde's, etc. I can't recall all. The idea was instant retrieval of all knowledge on all points. So, when they do need it, they do not use it or worse, can't. But if the real reason was time, what is the purpose of the computer?

By way of background, those of you who do not know should understand that when Bud outlined the purposes of his committee and who he planned for his board of directors I refused to join on both counts and predicted no "major critic" would align himself with it. However, I did say I would cooperate with him, on a personal basis, and outlined that this meant nothing from me went into his committee's files, nothing in any form, verbal or written, went to any of its members and particularly not to its board. He agreed. Therefore, as I learned things he should have known, as I have with so many of you, I informed him, often providing copies.

It soon became apparent that Bud really knew little of the fact of the assassination, and this has never changed. His concepts are fiction, and based upon this story-book approach he has wasted an enormous amount of money (almost entirely his own) and time (that he could hire, command in other ways, and of a number of people, including me. On this latter point, aside from the costs or travel and the time it took, I'd say that without doubt, in various projects, it cost me enough time to have written at least two books). It also soon became apparent that he is as bullheaded and unreasoning as Garrison. And before long, although I remain convinced that in all other aspects of his personal life he is decent and honest, kind and thoughtful, on this subject he is capable of any dishonesty if he at any given moment believes it serves his purposes, whatever he conceives them, and equates his own transitory purposes with the common weal. This has grown to the point where, like Garrison, he conceives that because he has and owns this CTIA, he owns the work, the right to control it, what is done with it, meaning the entire subject. Unlike Garrison, he is not capable of the subtleties some of you may have observed and experienced. He is incapable of some of Garrison's brilliance, not is he is skilled at deceit.

Over the years, on a number of occasions and in various ways, I helped him accomplish things I think should have been, and of all I can now recall, he would have failed on all if

I had not. In two cases this meant delivering his client and then doing all the research and investigation. In all cases, knowing that he is eaten by his own ego, I was careful to make no public disclosure of any of this. He lives to be able to say, "I am the man who solves the assassinations", and the explicit purpose of his committee was to accomplish this. As with Garrison, each time I did for him what he could not, saw what he did not, knew what he didn't dream of, and saved him from endless follies, instead of appreciating it, he grew more and more resentful. This accelerated as he learned my forecasts of the the reception and history of his committee were precisely accurate.

And the competitiveness he felt! One pathetic illustration will serve. Not too long ago, when I went to his office to keep an appointment, he greeted me with "We have something you do not have", in the sense of at long last, my great dream come true. It turned out to be something several of us, PH and I to my recall, had had for some time, the so-called non-existent Exhibit 710. It had by the time he gloated been in COUP for at least two years, and he had had a copy and hadn't read (or returned) it.

There were many things, some of which I suppose I'll cover in a letter I suppose I'll write him for the record. I'll send copies. But his irrationality grew to the point where he fabricated fables, without which, I suppose, he could not justify the things he did. Even recently he has argued with his associates that secretly I do have a source of funds, that I am not at all impoverished. What difference it makes I do not know, for wealthy as he is, he has spent no more on me than I have on him, and I have spent for him, meaning at his request, what he has never done for me. The difference is enormous. He is wealthy. I am not. When one of you once expressed concern about my financial condition, he provided the assurance that "Happy Harold is getting everything he deserves". From him this means \$00000. Even where he has spent money, as on the spectro suit, it has been for selfish purposes. He told me that case would go to the Supreme Court and he would take it there. He loused it up, needlessly, but because he saw possibilities of success (and much credit for him) he was willing to spend this money. I left him entirely alone, and he is incapable of accomplishing anything except an occasional newspaper plant unassisted, unless one forgets that what he plants is given to him.

For well over a year I have had serious worries about his rationality. Every time he did a dirty thing, I wondered more, for I do not believe he is this kind of person. I discussed it with several close to him, and they shared my concern. But as with Garrison, it is impossible to do anything with him, and when he gives his word it is like "unchausen's".

In any event, recently, meaning over the past six months, he did several things both disreputable and dangerous for all of us. In both cases, I do think he stole my idea, what he knew I initiated, in both cases stupidly. In both cases also in a way that would have redounded to his personal benefit, to making him a name, had either succeeded, as neither could, something he was incapable of seeing. As most of you know, as soon as a decent time elapsed after the breaking of the Army Intelligence story, I wrote Resor. He not only got a copy of this, he knew my plans in advance. When Boggs spoke for the first time, I wrote him immediately, copy to Bud. In each case he tried to exploit it foolishly. And in both cases, that marginal paranoic Bob Smith (who, as does Bud, thinks he knows all there is to know and thinks he understands what he doesn't), did his work for him. With the Army, it was to have taken the form of a CTIA public charge-news release. It was so wrong it would have helped the Army. We had it hot and heavy on that, but he and Smith, both reluctantly, finally backed down. The other case is Boggs. Here he couldn't well use exactly the approach I did, which was limited and focused, concentrating on that for which Boggs could not be held responsible because he had been a member of the Commission. Where I had limited myself to where Boggs and the Commission were Hoover's victim, he and Smith selected only what, to the best of my recollection, made Boggs culpable. And atop it all, except for one thing, which he stole from me, having had it in confidence for some years and having agreed to keep it that way on several occasions, including when I learned he had been telling the butts about it, this combined genius yield trivialities, no more. As formulated, none of it could survive.

Jim Lesar, of whom I cannot speak to glowingly, tried, and he finally conceded that this is the case.

In short, if Boggs uses this, he is ruined, and with him we are. What little the other Bud's have left of our credibility, would be gone. And to do this, as Jim knows, having been here when I was phoned, I gave up a meeting with a prominent black leader important to my work on the King case and to the success of my book. Perhaps worse, I may have jeopardized or ruined my relationship with the Congressman who had arranged this and phone me to come down.

The kind of bullheadedness here reflected is beyond my comprehension, so I must conclude that on this subject both Bud and Bob have departed their senses. They knew this was fecal matter they gave Boggs, they knew it would be a booby-trap for him (and us), and they even came to feel there was little chance he'd use it. But they refused to withdraw or in any way amend it. They had also given a copy to a man on Anderson's column, and they refused to speak to him. As I told Jim, if they didn't attempt to avoid the consequences, I'd have to. So, I have, as I hope you will find rather modestly and moderately under the circumstances. I have drafted a letter to Boggs and Lil is typing it. She had a job for today, and we can use the (hourly-rate) income, but she will be late for it so I can mail that letter to Boggs today. I'll be sending copies.

What this will mean I do not know. I will stay away from him. I suppose I'll help on worthwhile things if I am asked. I think the prospects of his asking are slight, his ego is of that size, and his false concept of his own knowledge and understanding (and Bob's). It can ruin the chances of success in the Ray case, where he has already performed incredible stupidities and dishonesties. And I have to and do assume responsibility for getting him to be Ray's lawyer. (Ray, meanwhile, has been hinting that I ought come down to see him again and I am without means, such is Bud's dedication. I think he resents that I get from Ray what he does not and others, including Hanes and Foreman, haven't. Already the basic things are clear to me, and from him.) His negligence here, on the elemental things, has been great. They involve current and past violations of Ray's rights, as with the authorities letting the press wander in on him over his expressed objections and the keeping of his mail when it comes from those other than on his list. He now feels that all of it is gone over by federal authorities. He has been right so often I am inclined not to doubt it.

And on the Ray case Bud's judgement, including his legal judgement, has been no better. Where he has not consulted me, he has blundered. When he has done the opposite of what I counselled, it has turned out to be wrong (and he sought the counsel). When he has filed papers without my reading them, they have held serious error (as is true in all other legal cases, going back to Louisiana v. Shaw, where he didn't let me read the Forman paper until after he'd filed it—and what happened to us and Forman on the stand is exactly what I'd forecast.) It came to the point where he was torn. Much as he hated to listen to me, he found he had to, and he'd come here before filing papers to get my opinion on what he should file, what it should include, even the legal approach. In other cases, he asked me to prepare memos, even legal memos, as on the violations of Ray's rights, and I did and have copies. When he didn't use what I wanted used, he found out too late, in court, that I was right. If it would have made no difference in that corrupted court, it would have made a much better record, and that is the record that will go to federal court.

I could continue indefinitely, such is the sad record. But my purposes are limited, to inform you. I would hope that this does not become another exacerbation among the critics. It certainly is not my intent to cause or promote one. However, I do owe it to you to tell it like it is and then, hopefully, to forget about it, with the added hope that there will not now be this considerable drain on my time and I can use that saved time for constructive purposes. However, I want there to be no doubt in anyone's mind of what this combo is capable of— and of what it can mean to us.

Regretfully,
HW