

= JM, RB, HR, PH, ERS, JW

4/28/71

SUBJECT TO SAME RESTRICTIONS AS PREVIOUS MEMO, PLEASE

Jim Lesar called me late last night, in answer to my call to him earlier when he was out of town. We had a pretty pointed conversation lasting close to an hour about that fright prepared for Boggs by the CTIA is deepest secrecy. I think I shook him up a bit by what I said about it and what I promised to do unless it were withdrawn and other dishonesties corrected and their potential damage to me eliminated.

He spoke to Bud this morning, phoned and then came up, remaining about five hours. It was costly and unpleasant all around, particularly costly for me because a black Congressman phoned me for a ~~black~~ meeting I have long sought with a prominent black leader. Despite my strong desire for this and the importance it could hold for FRAME#UP, I felt I had to do this with Jim and immediately. It seems that although he had not told me, Jim had some misgivings and was able to persuade Bud to let him send me the copy of that memo he did.

It is too much for me to go into now, and there is no depending upon Jim's influence. Doing anything will be a bitter pill for Bud. The one hope I have is that doing nothing will be worse, for him. I told Jim how I proposed to assure this and gave him a tomorrow deadline for the production of not promises which have so often been ignored or broken, but something upon which I could depend and, if violated, use.

Now if I spent 5 hours taking 8 pages apart, can you imagine the horrors in those eight pages? But I felt that even though I had read it but once and then sickened, it was necessary to make one more attempt to teach those well-intentioned if under-informed and ego-centric people just how little they really know of the basic fact and how stupid, how counter-productive, how absolutely ruinous to Boggs using this could be. It is clear that Jim has no doubt at all.

Perhaps the worst part of all is the political stupidity, for it is a self-defamation of Boggs like none other, were he to use it. If he understands it, it is a self-defamation by Bud, who has never learned to not work behind my back and I suppose never will. The error in simple fact is incredible, and with the command the other side can be depended to have upon the media, aside from the disaster to Boggs, can you imagine what this would have done to us? And how good it would have made Hoover and the FBI look? And, as Jim acknowledged at the end, were it all correct, as virtually none is, in doctrine or in fact, it amounts to nothing at all for Boggs and nothing, really, against Hoover and the FBI.

The past several days have been a severe drain on my nerves and my emotions, so I do not now give you the gore. I do tell you, if you do not know it already, not to accept the time of day as a statement of fact if it comes from the CTIA, it is that bad and their ignorance is that considerable. This is ~~xxx~~ painful to say because of my personal liking for Bud and because he was completely wasted so much of his money. As I made clear, he and they will waste no more of my time. I'm out of the fireman business, except that if they build more such stupid fires, I'll find some gas for them.

Jim is great, and right now in as bad a position as a sincere, responsible young man can be. He now recalls that as soon as I got to know and like and trust him, I warned him that such a day would come. It had to be inevitable. But there remains the damage done all of us on the Hill. I gave Jim a formula for withdrawing this that he thinks is sufficiently delicate and persuasive (it will not be up to him). If I receive the guarantees I have demanded, I will do nothing further. If I do not, I'll be writing some letters. Maybe more. Unless I hear from Boggs or his son, I plan no further initiative for now. And I have demanded what was promised more than a year ago, the purging of their files of everything from me not now needed in litigation and the segregation and restriction of that. Every nut and his brother has been going through and copying them. This specifically includes what that kindred spirit Garrison did, provide copies of what I gave him in confidence. With sorry and fatigue,

Harold Weisberg