

Dear Bud,

12/29/75

It was not to replot ground already plowed that I called you today, as you later told Jim in asking him to call me for you. But if you decided it was, instead of having me sit around doing odds and ends for three hours, why didn't you have someone phone me with a courteous lie, like you were suddenly called away?

I called you in your interest, not mine. And not with anything "old" but with a plan for preparing for your possible need. I had part of it on paper when you said you'd call back after taking another call. I thought it through further during the 15-minute walk I told you I'd take.

What I did get to tell you is that a) the Times series is in New York and b) to be published before the CBS special, which is Friday night. You allowed no chance for the next consideration, what we might prepare to do between the two, using the Times as the peg for anticipating what CBS has not hidden its plans. And thus responding to both.

There is nothing either can say that can hurt me. I do not believe the resistance and pressure I have given both endears me to either. Generally I ignore these things, more now that what I can do is restricted. I haven't read Phelan's nastiness yet and I've ignored your ~~own~~ unrestrainable self-indulgence to the Post. Not that the worst of my writing in this field isn't at least the equal of the law you've practised in it.

But you and Jim are lawyers and you can both be hurt, you in particular if either did any digging and if you ~~stand~~ blab. (I still find it incredible that a man of your sophistication and experience would not be suspicious when three Times reporters came so late in the day and fear from your appearance when I saw you that you were indiscrete.) This is why I went to see you Tuesday, as we had earlier arranged. It is why I was at your office two weeks earlier when I had new glimmers I felt you should know (but you didn't come back before the time I said I had to leave. It is why in between I phoned and left a message. You did not return the call. And part of another aspect is why I spent what I can't afford, a half-hour on the phone with Bob.

All of these situations are your responsibility, from what you do that you should not, from what you do not do that you should, and from copping out when firm action is obviously called for. Despite all I was trying to prepare for help you might need, nothing else. And in return you were again abusive and inconsiderate. Knowing the shape I'm in and what it does to what I can do in my own interest - and can't. If you were not so hungup in your own hanups you'd be ashamed. In principle and for killing the last part of the day when I have enough energy for continuous work.

Until I knew the Times' expected schedule, while I suspected it and accurately forecast it day before yesterday to Jim, there was no point in planning countermeasures. I did, however, think of them. And between the time I learned this morning and the time I called you this afternoon I did work out a no-lose plan. But for it to be possible the Times stories have to appear before the CBS show.

It would have required some preparation. Beth could have done it at Jim's or here, easily, under the direction of either of us. I do have in addition what you do not know about, what I did not get from C.A.75-1996 and what could have turned the whole thing around after the Times series and when it would have been too late for CBS to change. I'll not still have it for my own use, in my own way and interest. I was, in fact, saving it for my own use. In time you'll know, as you'll also know what it adds to what I had and on which you copped out at the evidentiary hearing.

You've been lucking it out for years. I hope you make it one more time.

In any event, I've been trying to work ahead and to do what it is your responsibility to do. But I knew you wouldn't. My phone bill alone will be about \$100 for it. But for my own purposes, for my last two books, I haven't dared spend a cent on long-distance calls.

In all other aspects you are so entirely different. But with this subject and with me you are like a snake that sheds its pattern. Briefly. Then it is back again.

I do feel sorry for you, your inability to learn and change and for what it all may yet do for you. May your luck hold out. You need it!

JL: Please do not take the enclosed letter to Bud as an expression of disgust and resentment only. It is this but it has other purposes. The potential of the Times-CBS combo can be very hard blows. While I doubt I ever have much possibility of making Bud think and uninspired he is too much the coward to act, I felt an effort and a record were necessary. Besides, you, I and the case have the unending problem of surviving him. Right now my disposition is to let him face it if he is the butt or has been indiscrete as he has been so often. I expect some personal flak is possible but I'm not worried. And when I recognized the CBS crew at the press conference I did feed them some lines they might find tempting. I think the chance of dirty stuff on me are higher with the Times than CBS but I'm not worried about either. I am worried about what both could have been fed and what it can mean. So, I wanted to take some initiatives. (A separate one was to try to pressure Bud into filing some motions -himself- about the continued intrusion into Ray's defense mail. Not being able to write Jimmy about the Chastain piece reminded me of that.) Also, I didn't want Bud to think defensively if it turns out as the indications are it will. And I felt that if a matter of personal pride might get entwined he just might want to show me and himself that he ain't not neither timid. We'll have to wait and see now. His lying to me about calling back was another dirty trick. I could and should have taken another walk today. I did briefly until the lab opened, then another almost to Shookstown Road when I got home and then one all the way to that road when he went off, allegedly for the other call. I've been going about 100 feet further each time to play safe. And going at (for me) a good clip even uphill. By the time I got home, cold at it was outside, the left calf was so hot the pants were warm, not cold! But my hands were cold inside of gloves. Without his deception I'd have taken another one before dark. I think they are good for me. It is at some point uncomfortable but unless I have to limp I don't slacken the pace. Aside from feeling that this can help recovery I'm gradually getting the softened muscles to stop complaining. Sure I resent his cheapness. He could have had Carmen phone some limp apology and I could have walked and done other work instead of bits and pieces, not to drive what was in it from my mind. ...I think he blew another good one, regardless of what the Times says...Regardless of the odds against it, I had purposes other than expressing resentment. Now I've gotta rub that St. Jude some nice Catholic lady gave me. Then to bed. Let us hope,