

Dear Bud,

5/29/74

Toward the end of last week I had several calls from reporters about this newest zig in the Ray case. When I asked Jim, who in time phoned about another matter, it was all news to him. Aside from more immediate possibilities, this raises ethical and moral considerations in my mind and not for the first time. I've delayed writing this long to give a letter from you a chance to reach me.

Jim is handling a matter for me on which he was to have come today. He called last night to say he'd make it tomorrow. By then he still had had no word from you or Bob on this, either.

This is, to say the least, no way for people to work together. It is anything but the traditional manner of a "defense team." and it is hardly the conduct of a friend.

So my purpose in wasting this time is to read you an overdue sermon. It was due almost two months ago when I got a call from Jim, from Houston, about what may or may not be related, something you and Bob apparently wanted him and me to know nothing about. Jim wanted to know if a certain description he apparently overheard meant anything to me. It was close enough to descriptions of several men in Percy Foreman's uglier past for me to have concern for all of us and for whatever you and Bob are or were or both into.

I have stopped protesting your persistent refusal to adhere to the simple agreement we made when I undertook to get Ray as your client because I realize that psychologically you are incapable of keeping your word. It is not because you are inherently this kind of man. You are not. Basically you are a very decent fellow. But on this subject something is eating you up and you can't do anything about it. Except to behave out of character. It has been painful and costly to me, I have had to remain quiet about what with anyone else I would not have, and it is abusive and in and me in ways that almost nobody would forgive you for.

But this is not the worst. The worst is that between you, you and Bob haven't a glimmer of the real facts of the case and you can blunder into almost anything, any kind of trap, including your own murders and harm to your families.

I have no idea of what is afoot except the little the wires carried. It was read to me by those who phoned. It is inherently impossible. There is, of course, the possibility that the wire copy is wrong.

Aside from ethical and moral considerations, your own intelligence should overcome your selfish ambition enough to let you make at least a rudimentary check.

Maybe this is the real thing. In that event what the hell could it have cost you to behave as any member of a defense team is supposed to and touch base all around? I am not about to steal any of this from you, if you regard it as a property, and by now you have ample reason to know it. Nor is Jim.

On the other hand, if there is something wrong with it, if it is some kind of ploy of the kind of which there have already been too many, it can blow all the work that has been done. The timing would seem to indicate the possibility and the intent.

And if someone has some dire plot in mind, the two men of least interest to those who want to end the Ray defense are you and Bob. You know least of the fact and have done the least of the work. Any real danger is to Jim and to me, and because this should be apparent to you and Bob, you should have recognized obligations to both of us from the outset of whatever you are into.

While I am on this aspect, let me be blunt. But it is not my intent to insult you. If we succeed in this case, you will get the benefit from it. You get all the publicity and neither Jim nor I have made any effort to deter this. I don't care about it and I have seen no sign that he does. What this amounts to is that he and I have done an enormous labor for you without any compensation and when neither of us had any income at all. Without this work the egg on your face would be permanent. And we'd not be where we are in the case. (I hope it is not now were!) Between the two of you, you and Bob have not invested a fraction of the time Jim and I have. And between us we have done all the work that has any meaning. You, personally, are the beneficiary, as is Ray. On this basis alone you should have enough appreciation to consider first that when there is or may be danger you owe us something and second, where there is anything at all that is in any way concerned with the case which means this enormous amount of time he and I have put into it, you also

him, me, the case and your client something you have not delivered on here.

I don't really care about the part that is personally abusive. I have been adjusted to that for a long time. I do care about success and I do care about the amount of work, entirely thankless work, that has gone into this, often in spite of you and what you have done and not done, and I do care about not having all this work wasted.

And I do care about the possibility that at some point you will come to understand how you have conducted yourself in this entire matter and will be hurt by it. I have no desire for you to be hurt. As I said earlier, you are not the kind of guy your behavior in this case makes you.

And I do care about Jin, whose has done all the real legal work in the case and you and Bob treat him this way. I am surprised that he has taken it. Or that his wife isn't giving him trouble because he has.

The treatment of Jin is really shameful because you can't tell yourself with him as you can with me that he is not a lawyer.

This whole thing is wrong, very wrong - even if it turns out right.

While I hope it does and that one thing will be over, I am without confidence that it will be based on two things: the limited supply of facts that I have and your and Bob's track record.

At some point you should be asking yourself how you would act if the situations were reversed and you were the receiver of the abuse you have been handing around, whether or not you so conceive it. (I do and he is sick if Jin doesn't.)

If this kind of business doesn't stop, at some point you are going to be in that position. Or worse.

And if this thing blows up, what will your personal and professional position be?

I have been concerned about this - for you - for a long time. Bill may or may not recall it, but as far back as when your office was on 15th Street I discussed this concern with him. There was then and there is now nothing in it for me. But I saw the possibility of your getting into trouble. It happens to people who do work of this kind when it doesn't happen to crooks.

And the people who are really hurt by the kind of interests we have are those with the power, disposition and motive to make the effort. The effort alone could be ruinous to you personally.

You have demonstrated a remarkable stubbornness about the wrong things, so I expect this letter to accomplish nothing. If it angers you, that is no accomplishment. But if at this late date you can step back from yourself and this gnawing ambition and just do a little thinking, maybe it will have done some good.

Selfishness dictates that you think selfishly, about the possibilities of your getting hurt in all this.

And common decency dictates that you ask yourself about your personal behavior in this. Have you been even commonly decent to those who have done so much for you for no personal reward, not even thanks? Is this the way people work together? Is this the way to succeed in a common goal?

Is it, with you, a common goal?

This has the potential for hurting you much. I'd hate to see it happen. But if it does, and if you survive it, you will have only yourself to blame. From Houston on you should have had us all together on this. I know things you and Bob don't. They may or may not turn out to be relevant. If they do, it may be too late when we learn it.

Frankly, I feel sorry for you because you are the creature of your ambition to the point where you can't control yourself and can't even behave like a man and treat associates in a decent, manly fashion. This thin will get you yet, and that will be a real tragedy.

I'm sorry for you,

sincerely,