

Dear Bud,

12/10/74

Jim told me of your conversation after you returned from your trip. As he told you, I never had any intention of getting Jimmy to fire you and Bob. And you are kidding yourself if you think my anger was from bitterness over my personal situation.

The time ought come when you can stop kidding yourself because if you do not you may ruin yourself, something that to this moment I've done all I can to prevent. After this last one I think I probably should add or will because I'm simply not going to go through this kind of thing endlessly nor am I going to tolerate any more abuse, regardless of who needs it for his concept of self.

However, my purpose is not to recriminate. And my experience tells me that words are wasted until after acts give them point.

As I told you - and I think I sent you a carbon - as soon as I got home after you asked me to ask McKinley to put in writing what he had in mind I wrote him. However, before he had a chance to respond and when there was no rush since the project was far in the future anyway, you wrote Jimmy. Prematurely at best and with other defects. If you did not realize that with this you put me and McKinley both in a bad situation you should have.

Now that I have finished what I'm going to do with Haile's Memorandum and before I resume the work I had to lay aside I'm updating you.

If there is no interview, which is by agreement ^{protected} ~~protected~~ in every way, there is going to be a story.

There will not and cannot be these protections of a story. I would not think of asking for the protections and assurances I did ask for and get after speaking to Jim because you were not available. These were checked and approved by Playboy and their counsel. (This is also another way of saying there are other reasons you should not have rushed for no need because it is abusive of them and the worst possible public relations. One just doesn't treat people this way.)

I have not been told and I have not asked what kind of story. I will not ask. It is none of my business. If I am asked to help, then I'll have to know what the story will say. As I will not have anything to do with what I do not think can or will do good, I will also be willing to help what I regard as a worthwhile story if I am asked.

You should understand that a signed article is one that offers opinions. I can think of some opinions you might prefer not being offered. I don't mean by me but by the author you have abused as you have for no apparent purpose. I will be taking no initiatives in what anyone thinks or says. I haven't been asked. If I am and if I respond I will say exactly what I believe.

Your writing that pointless, unnecessary, unlikely letter and your not responding to my inquiry leaves me boxed in. I can hardly take any initiatives when this kind of thing happens without consultation. Besides, Playboy has no reason to be mad at me. For your sake and Jimmy's I certainly hope they manage to miss the obvious, talk to Henry. He can't help but have more than he used. Not that what he used isn't enough. And then there is always Bob and Cliff and Detroit. Great record. Detroit reminds me. I got a card from Henry, from Windsor, mailed 11/24. I sent Jim a copy. He offered me an "exclusive" and a guarantee of no guilty plea. Whether he was joking or had a point I didn't ask. Maybe it is no more than coincidence, but Jim asked me if I know anything about your visitor from Detroit. I don't.

Sincerely,