

Ray Evidentiary Hearing- pretrial conf of 3/15/74 HW 3/7/74

My experience with the rich over the past decade and in connection with their interests in the assassinations convinces me that they are the world's cheapest people except where lavish waste of money suits their immediate interests or conceived needs. Bud is no exception. We have actually carried the case to the point of success despite him. He has done everything possible to blow it, including antagonizing his client. In addition to all the other uncompensated roles I've had to perform is keeping Ray as a client and keeping him and his crazy clan in line.

Now, today, another fireman's role, this time to protect Bud from his own ego and incompetence. And above all, cheapness. He now wants not to take Lesar with him to this conference. He can't handle it because he can't stand up to forceful people, being a caricature of a Southern Gentleman. The real article had backbone with the superficial politeness. Those country slickers down there will con him if he is alone. So, my need later today when he and Jim get here for our pretrial conference on handling the pretrial conference, which is premature anyway with the State going for cert, is to get Bud to take Lesar, if not by diplomacy by force.

Bud's ego hurts because he can't accept the fact that he can't do anything in these areas on his own. It hurts him to take this help even when it costs him nothing and he gets all the public attention and all the credit for what he never does. (After Ray fired him and before I got Ray back in line, the immediate problem was to keep Bud from making it impossible, which I did in his office, but the minute I got him in line and Lesar and I were not both in his office he got out of line with a reporter, departed from the text he wrote down as I dictated it, and almost blew it anyway!)

Despite this, however, at almost each critical juncture he has conferred with me. In the few cases he didn't he failed, no exception. This time he didn't even suggest that I go to DC. His initial suggestion was that he and Lesar come here. I take this as an unarticulated confession of uneasiness for which he has prepared himself and some part of blowing it by planning to go on to New Orleans to visit a son in college, his way of downplaying the importance of the conference which will really fix the ground rules for the hearing and will control what if anything is done to relieve Ray's oppressive conditions.

The situation has become as intolerable for Lesar as it had become for me before Lesar started working on the case. Lesar has done all the legal work for several years, without compensation. If he had not tolerated the intolerable the opportunities available to use would not and could not have been used. Bud would never have mastered all the work I had done in preparation and would not then have taken the time to get it all on record in the courts. Jim has done all this and exceptionally well. Also quite literately.