

5/22/75

Mr. Bud Fensterwald
910 16 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Bud,

It has taken some time but you've finally wound up in the company in which you have belonged all along - butts and the means of promoting a man whose ethical, moral and professional deficiencies are equaled only by a sick ego and a need for self-promotion of which you and the others will now be part.

There is no innocence with you because you have for a long time know he is corrupt and have not been reluctant to say so, if not on camera or mike.

And this, too, is as it should be.

Despite the fact that I can't conceive of any of you doing it honestly or factually, both being strange to all of you, I do hope you can pull it off. There is so much else I would rather do!

If your own factual knowledge of the unquestioned were not so deficient you would have realized that Mark's performance today is typical of his ignorance of the most basic evidence in the case. I rather enjoyed it because it tells me that he has not only done any work but he has stolen ^{only} the sensational, without taking the time to learn. He is a long-time practised crook but it is really too bad that he hasn't been a wise enough crook to steal the basic fact.

This is consistent because he is also that long-standing and consistent a liar.

He lied to you in telling you that I would be at today's press conference to disrupt it. I have never done anything like this (I'm sorry to say in retrospect) and on the occasion of your own recent abandonment of elemental decency and despite the provocation I didn't then. You know what I could have done.

I don't really care about all these factual errors if only because I can't do anything about them. What I do care about is what can hurt. Ripoffs, at which you also are expert and have a record, bother me really only when they can hurt other than me personally. And the kind of prejudicial propaganda/nonsense Mark has been pulling for years often has been hurtful. I wish I though any of you had the capability or desire to keep him honest and within reason because he can be effective.

I would not have been there today if your new fushrer had not actually threatened me physically. I may be aging, I am tired, I am weak from illness, but that kind of challenge from one who makes a whore respectable is not one I am not going to meet. After-right after- I learned of this threat - to throw me out physically - Jim phoned to ask why you had told him I was going to disrupt Mark's meeting, which you told him without explanation. So, I told him what happened and asked him to be there as my lawyer, in the event of the need I told him that from this past record of Mark's blowing himself up I expected to amount to nothing.

When I heard one of the three different accounts of this conference - that Mark was going to release all this sensational new evidence he had - and Zodiac had no coverage, I offered to cover for my actual transportation costs and no pay. When they phoned to ask when and where your whole new gang went into hysteria. With this unseemly hysteria, which has as its only basis my record of establishing Mark as a crook, liar and bullshitter to his face only and on serious questions /only, I told Zodiac before they could ask me that I'd not cover for them but would most assuredly be there on my own. And thus your new nuttery automatically assumed that the students who talked to me were disrupters, originallt wanted to keep them out and warned them about disruption. I add that after this the only reason you had none was me. They told me and

and I, knowing their interest was their own thing, their own committee, encouraged them to total silence. Had it not been that one was curious you'd have had the unique distinction of all of you not generating enough interest in perhaps twenty members of the press to ask a single question. Let your chests swell with pride! That one question prompted a couple of others. And, of course, Mark's long self-promotions in all the artificially created heat. Or had you gone by then?

It was all pretty sick, childish at its better moments and insane when you were your natural selves.

But you are so utterly lost, so far beyond saving from yourself, that any caution, anything factual, is a total waste of time.

I leave you to the kind of believers in freedom who would threaten to throw out the man who had written more than all others there combined on the subject when without pay he was covering, or would have, for an impoverished syndicate that services mostly college stations. You belong with this kind of poorly-hidden authoritarianism, this perversion of freedom, this attitude toward factual reporting of yourselves.

Now that it is official that you are part of Mark's new effort to own the subject he has done so much to hurt, I feel it is necessary to repeat a caution to which you have never adequately responded, and this I send this certified.

Despite a clear prohibition, despite my refusal to have anything to do with your CIA (Mark couldn't even get that right), you violated my trust and my stipulation and put my work in your CIA's files. This extended to when you represented me as a lawyer, not as CIA. My private legal files were actually kept with those to which you gave free access to those nuts who were most of those who would associate with you.

I told you then and I repeat now that I regard this as unethical, unprofessional and unconscionable. I asked that you undo this harm to the degree you then could but you did not. Therefore, I have no way of knowing what of my work is still in your CIA asylum.

If you let any of this out of your possession, especially to these new self-promoters with so long and consistent a history of thievery and misuse, I will not be inclined to tolerate it. If there is recourse open to me, please understand that I will seek to use it.

There is no way in which I can undo what you have done. But I prohibited it, I asked that you return all my work regardless of how you got it, and I am telling you now that I strongly oppose your letting anyone under any circumstances have any of it for any purpose with the single exception of return, to me or through him.

bcc: at one point he left the table of
heads, which is not the same as the head
table, and I did not see him again until it
was all over. I was then outside awaiting the student
ents from Maryland, right outside the front door,
when he came out and made a sharp left turn without
a comment, without looking at me, really trying not to. It was all very sick and
so childish. He apparently believed Lane's fabrication.

Sorrowfully,

Harold Weisberg