

Dear Jim,

1/1/75

My interpretation of the first Times stories, regardless of what tomorrow's may say, is that I had a very large degree of success to go with the new unpopularity I am sure I've earned. Not only that, but I know much of what was omitted and by normal news standards it is much more newsworthy than asking the wrong question and giving a non-answer. Quite a bit. I'm resisting the temptation to write "o" and suggest he has a case to take to the Guild for including his name. Constitutes professional defamation.

The first of the items I had written out to take up with Bud is some kind of legal move to protect the privacy of Ray's defense mail. I have had occasion to want to consult with him without interception since we got the first 75-1996 papers. Intermittently I also have. Now more importantly I again have. He did promise I would have some papers by now and I don't. I'd like to have been able to write him about the Chastain piece. I can't tell you how often, but almost all the time I'm inhibited.

It is now 14 1/2 months since Bud agreed to take as his first step that of which this is but part. He hasn't done it. I think it should be done and as I think I told you he, not you, should do it.

Aside from regulations, which do prohibit the reading of defense mail and opening it outside the prisoner's presence Battle was quite explicit on this when Hanes asked for relief from the surveillance, lights, etc. Battle went into a long bit on the mail and said explicitly it could not be read and the only right the State had was to be sure there were no escape plans, etc.

Jimmy and his defense have suffered from this abdication. It has meant much time and needless worry for me. I'd like you to be politely firm with Bud on this.

He may not be as stubborn as you might think because by the time you get this he'll know how genuinely mad I am and that if I have to tee off on him I'll swing with all I have. There simply is no excuse for his not having done what he was supposed to or anything about this, which is part and could and should have been done separately.

It also is past time for you to be having to carry the full legal load and he should be able to understand it. One way or another.

What can make this more important is that there are now more and powerful ones to be hurt. This case is rushing toward a crisis. At some point Bud has to stop crippling us more than the other side.

Being something should be simple for him, especially now. He's got a clerk and you can give him that page of Battle.

est,