

Dear Howard (JL),

9/11/76

Because Jim believed it important for me to write Bud immediately, I did without having or taking time to think it through or read it. I went into town immediately after writing it because I'd wanted a Chinese dinner and I mailed it then, in the hope he'll have it Monday.

All Jim knows is what Bud says. My experience with Bud is that this does not have to be what he means and that he change change like the weather. Jim said that Bud acted as though he were concerned about what can happen. He did tell Jim ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ that he'd delayed his return from a trip to Europe not to have to appear with Downing with his Morrow insanity.

Whatever the real situation, I decided to do as Jim said and what I sent is what just poured out. It was not designed to please Bud. It is exactly what I have said all along. It is what I told Downing's people and what I told Schweiker in person. Bud had asked me to see him after I saw Schweiker and I did. With those events having proven me correct in even the most minute detail I'm not about to feel otherwise after them. I don't.

The Anderson columns are part of the silly campaign to get the Downing resolution out of the House Rules committee this session. Bud has been part of that, as he does not say. I know from those he's fed. And he fed non-news, non-secrets. Also non-fact. But with this several weeks old as of my latest information and with a letter from me on it to which he did not respond, perhaps, with what he has seen, he is worried. I don't know. He tells Jim he is.

I will not appear voluntarily before any congressional committee and talk about the peripheral or the conjectural. Not in an effort to get a committee authorized. An investigating committee can be another matter. Sufficient unto that day...

I've stayed entirely off the Hill except when I was asked to go there. When I was asked I went and I said what I believe and know and it has turned out to be accurate.

Had I wanted otherwise, it was not possible to compete with the playboys and nuts. They have accomplished exactly that of which I tried to warn them 4/75.

Having made this grand mess they are now stealing my King work, again for self-promotion and other selfish reasons, none ethical.

Bud told Jim he is not part of this.

I do not expect anything to come of my letter. If Bud had really wanted something to happen I was with him briefly Wednesday. He made no mention of it or my letter.

He has connections with those cabers and their staffs. It would have been simple for him to suggest that they speak to me, ask me in, etc. He didn't.

On the other hand, there could have been developments after then and before last evening that changed the situation as he sees it. I don't know.

My position is quite simple. If I am asked to do what I consider can be responsible I will. Otherwise I will not.

I have stayed out and kept myself clean during all the carryings on. I have a clear and explicit record with Schweiker, for example.

If and when there is a different situation none of the taint of recent years can attach to me with justice.

What happens unjustly I can't control.

However, if Bud is sincere, and if there is a willingness to detach from all the nut stuff and conjectures, it is not impossible that he can arrange something with which I could agree. If he can escape the nuttiness of his past this would serve his personal interest much more than I think he realizes.

I don't think it will happen. I do think it can. Therefore this added explanation,

Best,