

1/4/76

Mr. Bill Ohlhausen
910 16 St., NE, 6th floor
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Bill,

It is painful for me to write you and to enclose the carbon of today's letter to Bud. You know personally of my concerns going back to your time at 15 and K. You have some idea of the amount of work I had done when it was Bud's job to do it when at my request he came here with him on his return from his preparations for the Ray evidentiary hearing, that trip to Russia. You know so much more. It is not my purpose to bludgeon or embarrass you. But you are Bud's partner if not his friend. And he alone has brought all this to pass.

As I have told you many times, you are a partner and I feel I owe you an obligation. If I remember correctly, as recently as last week. It has also been my purpose insofar as anyone can influence Bud, to put you in a position to.

Once I had an obligation to Ray what I could do also was limited. I have tried, I think as far as possible, to meet this obligation. And it is, as I am sure you understand, a broader obligation.

This is a miserable business Bud alone has moved to where it is. There was another provision of our initial agreement of which I did not remind him that he would bring in experienced original counsel. When he did not and I raised the question with him, he as an alternative authorized me to make solicitations. I can produce the letters and his files should contain the carbons I sent him.

Besides this terrible, unreasonable past his personal feelings, ego or whatever they may be, have driven him to two hurtful libels besides this abominable Potemkin piece. All appearing in less than a month and at a crucial time for me.

The despicable treatment of Jim, who had to redo the very first thing Bud even did on the Ray case (which is not the very first thing, which Bud asked of me, not a lawyer - and I can produce it and the court records show that when he ignored my first recommendation an adverse judge ordered it of him -) appalls me.

Bud was standing next to me when Henry Hails, impetuously, pointed at me and said, "You are the one I'm going to get." Instead of doing anything Bud went to San Francisco. And I had to take time for covering Bud's bare ass to get myself local counsel. Jim and Hails have independent knowledge of this.

When Bud came back, before the evidentiary hearing started, I thrice caught him and Bob plotting how to throw the case, as he had, in effect, done with me, by limiting it to the financial corruption of counsel. The third time I bitew. I believe Jim had some knowledge of this - and separate himself from it so he could do the work again - Bud was to have done. While Bud was partying, in one case with John Henry Faulk, I worked, alone to around the clock, doing his work... I hope you never have to live through anything like what Jim and I did in Memphis, with Bud in Russia and with Bud here. Only to have him chicken out on everything, including what had been agreed to.

You should remember that you were in on some of this and before we left for Memphis assured me that the drafts, based on ACKU work, were in Bud's brief case. From the record they never came out.

I think there is no need to expand on this or its potential. Not now, anyway.

Take it from me or from Ecclesiastes (time and place for every thing) or from physics (a counter-force to every force) this has gone as far as I will let it, to the degree I can influence it, directly or indirectly.

I regard the claim I have made against Bud as quite modest in terms of the agreement he made, the time I spent or the results it yielded. (Temporarily forgetting the endless personal abuse.) I do not expect his sick ego to permit him to consider this. If this turns out to be correct, I will then consider my alternatives, all of which I think will total larger figures.

So you can try to help him, if you are willing and if you think you can, ask Jim if beginning on malice alone he has not crossed the line in Qui! He was my lawyer, he did, deliberately, lie, and he defamed me at a time that is crucial to a book that is the most expensive and definitive I've printed.

I'm truly sorry about this. But there remains no alternative. Certainly one that is not worse for Bud.

Certainly not one that in my condition and at my age I'm prepared to live with for whatever time I have.

You owe me no answer. I owe you the effort, whether, ^{or} not through the ~~medium~~ motion it is clear. I feel all aspects deeply.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Bill- postscript of 1/5/75

There is more I think you should know. I wrote the letters yesterday when I got into the second column of the Potomac story. I fear if I went further I'd be so angry I'd be totally incoherent.

First I decided to call Paul Valentine. As I came into my office to do this Jim phoned and I have never seen him like this before. Normally he is placid and except for getting excited, through all the Memphis hearing with me all for which there was no excuse that went wrong he did not get angry once that I know of. He said he would phone you. I then did phone Paul, without having read the rest of the piece. I wanted Paul to have a tape of what I said, he had no induction cup, so I made a tape with the one restriction that should he want anyone at the Post to hear it there is to be no public use of the content without my approval. He may never want this. In that event I have my instant reaction without having read most of the story on tape. What I went through in Memphis I never want to live through again. I also wanted an oral history of it and I had asked three reporters to question me vigorously the first time they could, on tape, the one stipulation being confidentiality. The other two are Mo Waldron and Jim McKinley.

As I suspected, the further I got into the story the worse it became. I recall nothing truthful from it. Not even how Bud got into the case. Connected me with CIA is to me a defamation of me.

I am not going to continue this indefinitely. If you want more detail, and I suspect you'd rather have the whole thing go away, which it will not now, I'll provide it.

There is now, from this story, no doubt that Bud has committed tax fraud in this. If he has written off as expenses in the defense of Ray what he says in the story he has pulled fraud. This brings back a trip to England, on which he took Flamonde and then when I protested -I wasn't getting a penny for necessary expenses to investigate the crime itself - Bud lied to Jim and Bob and said Flamonde was doing a book and his publisher paid Flamonde's expenses. My hunch is more that Flamonde was to have written of Bud as sickeningly as he did of Garrison. In any event, Flamonde had no publisher, no book contracted for, and I have it on tape, from a show Flamonde did.

As a consequence of my 1967-8 experiences I had to recast the role in which I felt I could serve a national interest in a story that self-seekers had gotten entirely out of hand. I decided, and there are abundant records of this, that I would have to be the one who came as close as possible to making a full historical record - of the whole thing. This includes how it got messed up. (Being repeated today by the Buds, Lanes et al.) I do have full enough records.

Jim has had enough experience with this. He will tell you of the number of surprises he has had when he needed something he thought did not exist and I'd give him the draft of an affidavit with the proofs attached. He has often enough been able to do by this means what you lawyers regard as impossible, proving a negative in court. So, if this gets to where my reading of Bud's sickness can get it, be prepared. It is going to get very rough and what Bud has done this time so far as I am concerned eliminates all alternatives for me. He and his gang of publicity hounds not, of whom really know what they talk about or care have to this point wrecked the possibilities in Congress now. That, too, means something to me. I will wait only a short time and until after I have had a chance to confer with Jim before I will probably start writing letters to these people in Congress. It will not be out of vindictiveness. It will be so they can succeed.

I believe the last time I wrote you I said you have no magic but should be aware. This time a little magic might help, wherever and however you may find it.

I'm sorry about the typos. Yesterday I asked Lil to read and correct the letters. Now it is time to get her up. Her season's work has begun and I have an early-morning blood test. You might want to read of get Jim to tell you about my April speech at NYU, the one I was too sick to read myself. Jim read it. I tried to warn these people, rarely by name, that the situation had changed, that the time had come to drop all the self-promotion and fairy tales and pretenses of knowledge and holiness and to be strictly on the up-and-up with Congress and of the alternatives. Bud is one who paid no attention, Lane is another. Bud has done other evils things, as Jim will tell you, with Whitewash IV and Penthouse, for example. I don't know where this is going to go, but the past is over and Bud is going to have to do something quite meaningful to undo what he has done. Best,