

I'd still love to tape an oral history on what actually happened in Memphis with a good reporter asking tough questions.

1/5/75

Mr. Paul Valentine
News Room
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Paul,

It was kind of you to take Sunday time to talk about the story in yesterday's Potomac. While I doubt anyone at the Post will want to hear the tapes, I have them put aside and identified, one full 60 cassette and half of the side of another.

There is nothing accurate in the story as it relates to Bud. As it relates to Jim it is close to libellous because he is not and has not been the legman. He has done all the legal work except for the few occasions when Bud has messed something up in court.

He in effect threw the case in Memphis. He was doing to willfully when I caught him and we had a fight from which we will never recover. But he went ahead as planned after that.

What makes it worse is that Jim, having done all this without pay and at the cost of getting his own start in a law practice, has actually turned out briefs of superior literary as well as legal merit.

Bud appears from the rest of the story to have been writing off joy-riding on other projects as Ray case expenses. His CIA did not get a tax exemption.

In fact, his own knowledge of tax law was so deficient there came a time when I worried he'd not be able to get credit for the legitimate costs he incurred. This was some years ago, before they closed Grushy. So I raised the question with Lil, who is an expert, she confirmed her opinion with another expert, I told Bud and then took the necessary steps with Jimmy to get Bud in proper condition under the Tax law for his legitimate expenses.

In all of this, with Bud never doing any of the work, I am among the victims because Jim has had cases to handle for me that he could not with all the Ray deadlines and the extraordinary amount of work they required. For both of us it is well into the thousands of hours.

Rather than Bud's getting into the case because of the CIA, into which he has always wanted to breathe the semblance of life, it was in spite of it. Part of our agreement was that there would be no connection with the CIA. None of its people could find women in a bordello. But my x files will show written protests to him when I'd get tapes of talk shows in which he and his odd bag would say the CIA did the Ray investigating.

The whole thing is pretty sick. It also represents the jeopardy in the Congress today. These guys who have the exalted self-concepts and become experts by their own evaluations and the number of times they make public speeches in which they generally say what is not factual or relevant, have led the Congress down a succession of blind alleys. I don't know what if anything I will do yet. But I have begun with a certified-mail written claim-denunciation to Bud, to go out with this. It depends on how he reacts-if he does.

I don't suppose this will interest the Post, which has regularly leaned itself to this campaign which eschewing the real. But I do and did think you would care about being conned.

For your information and that of anyone who again writes about this on the Post, there is no part of the Ray investigation that I alone did not do. Period. There are many investigations that should have been made for which I could not pay and Bud refused while he was joyriding and calling it investigating. There is no single occasion on which he sent me off, on his initiative or mine, to conduct an investigation. Each part I was able to do was incidental to something else. I did a little at my own expense. He is so lazy he asked me to bring back signed affidavits for the habeas corpus petition so he would have no work to do. When I felt this should be done by the lawyers, not that I hadn't prepared affidavits for official proceedings before Bud knew what they were, he turned it all over to Jim, who drafted every one. It is even worse than this, even on the secretarial help. Best regards,