

Dear Mary,

11/5/72

I'm a bit more tired than usual and I'm not remembering some things clearly. "Lil's" younger brother came this afternoon with his younger son and the three of us dug out about 300 feet of inlet to the pond and I made a temporary repair on the dam that feeds it, with rocks and mud. We have water flowing into it again and I'm exhausted. I imagine half the volume of water in the pond was gone. I feared the consequences of the lower amount of oxygen available to the fish. You may remember how tame I had them and how pleasant it was to have the "wild" ones the fisherman never sees come when they heard the voice and take feed with more docility than the average farm animal. So, if we have no storm for a few days, the water level will be safe again, I hope. But I find I don't remember if I told you I'd be writing Bud a letter he won't like or whether I'd said I'd send you a copy.

Because of your own troubles, it would be my disposition not to now. But because you are a member of Bud's board I think I should. Also, it may lead to complete rupture between us. It will be that or a change in Bud, for a number of reasons, only one of which is that I simply can't take the kind of personal abuse of which you know enough any longer. More serious is Lil's antipathy and justified resentment.

I have done an enormous amount of work for him for nothing. I also got him his client in a case that could make an average, decent lawyer, given him almost his entire case, and made arrangements that were necessary and fruitful only to have his ego and wierd notions frustrate much. If there is any one thing of consequence he has done on the Ray case, I tell you frankly I don't recall it. Jim and I have done all the work. The last thing Jim, who has never taken a case to court and not ever had a client, had to do was begin from scratch, ~~write~~ doing over the Memorandum on Points and Authorities. That is the one thing Bud finally said he'd do. It was so bad Jim said he'd quit unless Bud got off his back and let him do it over. Jim has done his draft, I've gone over it, and as best a non-lawyer can have an opinion, it is pretty good.

So Bud is this self-ordained Important Person who does nothing except enjoy the wealth he did nothing to earn and offend those who do the work for which he will get credit, when he isn't interfering in it or making it impossible. His lies and not keeping his word and not doing anything have loused up most of my time since mid-May. The inefficiency with which Jim was forced to work by Bud's ego did not freeze me out, as Bud apparently hoped, but created a very large waste of time for me. I've had to go over some of the lengthy drafts as many as three or four times. This in itself is intolerable. My first commentary on the petition habeas corpus was longer than the petition. To do what I've done I've had to let other things go and withal it can't mean anything for Lil or me. It can do good for Bud only. Well, particularly with his continued dishonesties (he can't separate—he is much like a quiet Garrison) dishonesties, I'm not doing any more work for him for nothing. I'll be surprised if Jim continues with the present arrangement. You know, Bud's sick self-concept is so out of hand he actually complained to me that Jim ought to be content to live on his wife and work for him!

Bud may be the person I originally thought him to be in other ways, but with assassinations he clearly isn't. He is uninformed, opinionated, rabid and lazy. And to top it off I regret to say he seems to be not a good lawyer in this kind of work anyway and anything but a courtroom lawyer. This gives me a problem beyond his realization. I did get Ray to ask him to represent Ray. In that I undertook an obligation I will not forget. Bud sees what he wants to see, believes what he wants to believe, and because of the wretched things he has done to me prefers his fantasies to the reality. So, he really doesn't understand me. Unless there is a change, a real and continuing one, he will have an opportunity to learn.

All he has done by way of money with me is to pay most of the expenses of I think three trips, all on this case except the trip from N.O. to Dallas when I last saw you. I have returned more than this in correcting his legal oversight. He was not in a position to charge off his expenses on the Ray case. I took care of that. Which also tells you what kind of lawyer he is. He hadn't even thought of it. So, I have cost him nothing, have made him money, and have had nothing but abuse and an intolerable situation for it. If I haven't actually made money for him on this he is worse than I think...Anyway, here is the letter I've written him. I don't really care how he reacts. If it leads to a complete rupture I'll be better off. He is nothing but trouble, for Lil and me personally and for the subject. If it is less than I could have said it will be a stiff dose for him. Hope there is a bit of brightness down there. Our best,