

Dear Mary,

7/25/72

My nerves are not nearly what they were, so I tell you that writing the enclosed letter to poor Jim, who is in the middle, was quite disagreeable and has left me upset. I am tormented in sending this to you, feeling that if I do it is wrong because of all you now have heaped upon and that it is wrong if I don't for a number of obvious reasons, including that you are a member of Bud's board of directors.

As is true of so many who yearn to do something important on the case but are intellectually incapable, unwilling to do dirty hard work, unable to, or all, Bud has in this departed from what I am sure is his normal character in all other things. I can't begin to tell you how cheap he has been as well as deliberately crooked. You need only look at his original board of directors to know one reason I couldn't associate. However, I was willing to trust Bud personally because I did like and trust him. Our arrangement was quite specific. You know how bitter I am when I remember the incredible words you cited to me as you were going home. (I DO wish you and Buck could come for purely selfish reasons: I think you would be good for Lil. And I'd like to think being welcome in a different scene would be good for you and Buck.)

In Bud's case I perhaps am more bitter for several reasons: my initial liking for him (and on a personal basis only I still like him) and some of the dirtier stuff he has pulled, like telling me he didn't have the money to repay me just the telephone bills incurred in getting Ray as his client. He agreed to take the case under stipulated conditions, if Ray asked him, and I spent a year bringing it to pass. Imagine Bud telling me he hasn't the money and telling you what he did! With his obvious wealth! I gave him his client and his case and got stuck for the cost and have been 100% uncompensated for the work I have done since, which he first of all couldn't pay another to do and second has taken more time than he'd dream of paying anyone. I am still giving him that, the purpose for Jim's coming here, with the understanding that it is to remain my property exclusively except for court use. But I'll just bet you it is in the nuthouse (aka OTIA) files.

One of the agreed conditions was that I would be the investigator on the case. So he froze me out and used that whore/crook Flamonde, taking him to England, etc. When I confronted him on this and the total waste of it with so much to be done where the crime was committed, in front of Bud and Jim, he told them later that Flamonde's publisher was paying for it or rather had. Flamonde planned no book and had no publisher and Bud knew it all along and later I was given a tape of a show they and Sprague did where Flamonde was explicit on this.

There are many reasons why I can't permit this present situation to continue. The longer it is delayed the better the chance that more will disappear for one, and it is simply emasculating and too abusive to accept under my circumstances. I don't know what I will do, but I think you know me well enough to know that if and when I do, it will not soon be forgotten.

Now for the Billings material: this has stuff that ought not be in the hands of these phoney liberals because it is capable of misuse against two very fine conservative people, Bob and Trudi Castorr, and friends of theirs in Dallas. I gave them my word, as did Billings. You see how much that word means.

I had to avoid addressing this to Bud again because I don't really want a real fight with him if I can avoid it. But it will not be avoided by his simply not doing anything. And if you do not know it, I regard Bud as one of the more irresponsible and rabid on this subject, a duplicate Sprague. You ought to hear them together, on tape, as given to me by someone who knows nothing about the subject and just Raved about the show! The other stuff is the Hall-Howard stuff. Billings has already ruined one man's life on that, the man who did the sketch you may recall from the door of the hanging closet in my office. Besides messing up what this man had done for me. We never got it, thanks to Billings, who was to do no more than have it picked up.

Jim has been silent on this, too. Bud has been silent on everything.

If this disturbs you, I do regret it. I hope you can understand my quandry. And I hope letting you know of your preference. Best to all of you,

sincerely,