

JL: Bud's interest in what is in my mind

HW 4/29/75

Yesterday or the day before you said Bud wants to talk to you about what I am up to, what is in or is my state of mind, something like that.

While you in general know and should, from what is not in my speech, realize does not include vengeance or vindictiveness, I think it might not be a bad idea to be more specific.

I regard the present as a dangerous more than a promising situation. I am aware of the promise. I am more concerned about the danger. I regard what he has done and is doing and particularly his associations as part of this danger and as contributing to it throughout the past.

I regard his current association with Lane as utterly unprincipled and one that can only defame Bud more, now and in the future, perhaps forever. As long as it continues I will see no need to distinguish between them. Besides, they both have clear histories of stealing from me so I see no reason for being silent about this in the future if it ever becomes necessary (for other than personal reasons) to use it. Any associate of Lane's today symbolizes to me the greatest part of this present danger.

My speech represents the end of a decade of public silence. I now realize that I was wrong to be silent in the hope that silence was the best course. It was not, not for me personally and not for the subject. I face this error and declare it without anyone ever having accused me of it.

With what Bud has to know about Lane and New Orleans alone I find his present association worse than disgusting.

There is nothing I can do or even want to do about Bud's prejudices, preconceptions, misconceptions, ego-trapping, stupidities hangups and other psychological problems. Little interests me less than what he thinks of me. And I know he is entirely incapable of facing his own record, dismal at its zenith is, or of probing his own mind, motive or means and methods. I tried long and hard in the past and the more events proved me right the greater his dislike of me grew and the more numerous his self-justifying manufactures. Despite this and what I regard as a clear record of various kinds of abuses not one of which is either manly or subject to excuse, unless he is crazy he has to know that I have never done a thing when I could have and have until now never said a word in public. Not only is vengeance self-defeating - I don't have time for it.

However, we are in a new era. I will cope with its demands as best I can. I will pick no fights. I regard my speech as quite modest in all ways, with regard to what I did not say about those to whom I made reference as with regard to those to whom I made no reference. I could, for example, have really laid into Cyril. And what could I not have done to Bud about his association with Nixon's defenders or that insanity of the misuse of those pictures in NYReview. The memo I wrote him on suing for the wrong pictures is but one example. If I'd read those reports he and his special genius Bob Smith ignored and then my memo and then his quitting with having done the wrong, how much do you think would have remained of any reputation for him? I was aware of this. But hurting him was not my purpose and it has never been. Rather have I been worried about how he could hurt himself, as Bill will remember all the way back to 1970 at the very latest. On the other side I have been silent about his regular breaking of word, breaching of trust and public taking of credit for my work for himself and his CIA abortion.

What I will or will not do in the future only the needs of the future as I perceive them will tell. Whatever honorable demand I confront I will do my best to meet, regardless of what it means, who it involves or how it involves anyone. Next to the last thing I want is fights. But the very last thing I want is more of the potential in this crucial period of what includes dilletantism, ego-tripping, commercialization, self-promotion, vengeance-seeking, insanity, unawareness of ignorance combined with exalted self-concepts, and in general so much of what has made for the current dangers of which the Gregory insanity is but one example. If he wants to understand, he'd best try. Hastily,