

Dear Jim,

3/20/76

The fancy stationery comes from the Use Everything handy survival kit. As usual too late Bud again realized that in the Uninpeachment there is what can interest one of his wealthier clients. When it was impossible he wanted to get JL together with that client and the ms. Not realizing how large the ms is I said JL would have to read much, so we agreed to have a copy. I hired a student to do it. Rather than take the time in each instance to see if copying an add was worth it I had her copy all. As you will see what you sent is included. She was insecure with the machine until she had used it a long time. She thus wasted much paper.

Before I get to my purpose a few catch-ups. I'm engaged in the second part of The Big Experiment, to see if I can write with a recorder while travelling. I'm dubbing last Sunday's train tape from the Lanier. I had the distributor make me a patch cord and try it on the Craig, which I took to him to clean up and go over. It has had very much use. While I don't presume you use batteries, I got two sets of those I can recharge because the cost of cheap ones has gone up so much. The first pair, the Lanier working on two only, has lasted about two hours so far and still going strong. If with this dubbing they hold up longer I'll take it for making memos while going over the FBI's papers I'd to see next week. Incidentally, the carrying case for the Craig mike fits it perfectly so I did not buy the one that comes with it.

Floyd and at least two girl students are coming today. I have about 1500 pp from CIA. Before even looking at them I want an inventory. I hope the girls get on that. I have no idea what these really say and won't make the effort until I can do it in a more systematic way than in the past, beginning with an inventory.

The real reason I'm writing while watching this dubbing is to ask if you have any suggestions on my Playboy situation. They seem to be stonewalling. If I do not hear from them Monday, while I'll have to be away twice before evening, I'll have to make a fairly quick move in federal district court. Les Payne and my lawyer friend Dick, whose expertise is in publishing, both independently recommend seeking an injunction. I've notified Playboy I will if I do not have written assurance they will use none of my work. My greater concern is not plagiarism of the copyrighted. It is use of new and unpublished told McKinley in confidence. I have a good written record, of notice and, of course, I would prefer to be able to avoid all of this. I know he can't show any source other than me. And there is a real possibility of personal danger if some as is done in the copy is used out of context, incompletely. One of the reasons for saying so little about this book and almost never mentioning how it will conclude is this element of danger. Even Hoffa warned of the danger. Now much is about to be blown with this added element of danger. If I allege the danger in court without the proof it will lack credibility unless I can do it in chambers and if I spell it out I'm adding to the danger. There is also the possibility that a judge may be unwilling to put any large-circulation publication to the cost of a delayed edition or may regard it as a kind of prior restraint. That I have the copy may or may not make a difference.

It will also coincide with JL's and my need to spend the days quite busily at DJ. We'll have to discuss this in some detail the first night and perhaps draft a complaint then. Fortunately, JL is first-person on the danger part, having been in on the Hoffa conference and confirmed my analysis-investigation with one of the few leads we got from Jimmy after I'd been pressuring him for a while. (Bud still doesn't understand how I was able to do this three years earlier and in 1971 have pictures of the house in question and a history on it.) So his word to a judge may carry some weight in confirmation.

Playboy says its lawyers say they can use anything, that in effect there is no such thing as plagiarism. While I am without doubt with the record I have from having been their consultant and the tapes they and I have in which I tick off their uncredited sources on almost everything, including the diligent avoidance of my name even where it was awkward, suit is not my purpose. It is a last resort no matter how much it might pay. This is Saturday and I had no call yesterday until 4:45 when I left for Lil, to take her shopping. Back at 6, which is 5 Chicago time. So I assume they have not decided or are stonewalling. What I'm really asking you is if within your experience there are similar or parallel case and if so what they say. You will not be able to respond before we will have done whatever we may do initially. One other question is should we go public on the stealing only. Any advice appreciated. Best,