

Dear Jim,

5/29/75

If you had come here when we'd planned you have had my letter to Lane and his to which I responded it and would be familiar with the contents of both. I did not send Bud a copy because he is close to literally insane on this subject, at least irrational, and if those Congresspeople and others who can be hurt as I suggest are, a share of the responsibility will be Bud's, as he'll realize. He always reacts one way when he comes up against what he has done. It would have done no good. And I did not expect either a letter from him or one as unacceptable as that of which I give you a copy with this.

You will, I believe, see what others may not, the possibilities of this rotten stuff of being hurtful if it gets into the wrong hands, those who are vengeful and those with their own axes to swing. I'd rather you not explain to anyone. Except Ethel.

If this happens, I will be without real choices. I'll have to do what I have for so long avoided. If I even have to unload on Bud he will never be the same.

Bill is not in a good situation. He may prefer to try to stay out. He may not be willing to conceive, as I do, that in the end it will not be possible. Or that Bud's real interest, not his self-justifications, are served by it. If Bud has passed any copies around, particularly to the rotten ones of those with whom he is now associated, the probabilities of troubles which most assuredly will mean the most serious trouble for Bud, are high. If he has circulated any, he would be wise to retrieve all copies.

I consider that I have taken an awful lot. I am not prepared to accept being hurt in any other way. I think you have some notion of what I can do if driven to it. If I have to, I surely will.

Dealing with the irrational is never easy. Not making an effort may be worse. So, I don't know what to do and can't estimate what others may be willing to attempt. I have no objection or complaint if nobody else is willing to make another attempt. I do see the possibility of an end with Bud having problems with the bar.

It is no longer uncommon for me to be asked, especially by reporters and as recently as today, after I got his letter, if I think he serves CIA. It is that bad. And I'm not talking about Skolnick-type stuff. I don't think I'll again say I believe not. There is nothing wrong with another truth, I don't know. Increasingly I find it difficult to persuade myself that the crazy things he does and says are the expression of emotional problems and no more.

I don't like to write him this kind of letter. I never have. But I also did not create either the need of the situation. He ought to know that when he writes me this kind of false letter and says it is to make a record that I have no choice but to make an honest one for him. And for my own protection from his.

In itself his letter is insane, perhaps inspired by something he may have done already. I can't find a reasonable explanation other than some special inspiration. That he and Lane do the same silly thing at about the same time also raises real questions even if this may be no more than coincidence.

While there are a number of things in his letter that make me wonder, one in particular, one you will recognize, I just can't ignore. I have to ask myself questions about that. If it is not coincidence...

Best,