

Dear Carol,

8/18/78

In the few minutes before today's broadcast of the Jimmy hearing begins I am not writing you an I-told-you-so letter, although by now I am sure you are aware, if you caught the broadcast, that I did tell you all in advance, including Jimmy, exactly what would happen.

Rather do I hope to be able to get through to some of you, despite all the unsuccessful efforts of the past. Not you personally, because I have no reason to believe that you know anything or can influence Jimmy and your in-house Hoosier Flapjaw Jerry.

I'll be enclosing today's Washington Post and if this misses today's mail, tomorrow's.

The Post, which had opposed the committee all along, is now calling Stokes Perry Mason. It hails as the committee's new evidence what I had in Fram-Up. And all that Jimmy ruined himself over he and Lane both should have known if from no other source, from Fram-Up. If Lane did anything other than steal the work of others and keeping himself on TV he'd have known from his own work. Only he never did any work on the case. He also never asked me for any help. I'm not at all sure I would have provided it and if I thought it was against Jimmy's interest, as now is apparent, I would not have. They has to be something left for when all the broken pieces are swept up.

What was particularly disastrous to Jimmy and helpful to the committee are matters no decent lawyer should not have taken up with Jimmy in advance. I discussed both with him. I told him of the laundry tickets for I had both. So, knowing this, Jimmy the genius goes on TV and says if you have the proof I'll confess all on TV. And after he has pulled that line in the past, in Lane's presence, Lane has not told him not to do it again. I also told him of the fingerprint and the British bank robbery.

On these two, instead of preparing Jimmy, Lane argues with the committee and forces it to produce even more proof that makes Jimmy look bad. I warned Jerry long ago that when Lane pulls this showbiz stuff he promotes himself only.

This is the inevitable result of wrong approaches and very bad behavior. I fear that it can react against John.

Jimmy never gave me any lead with which to help him in all the work I did for him. The one that he did write he had already given to Hule, who ignored it. So the result is zero help from Jimmy. Instead he told me he just sat down there, the Sage of Brushy, and decided what the lawyers should and should not know. From all the many mistakes he has yet to learn that he made any mistake. With Lane's help he repeats them.

He gave Foreman the phone numbers and Foreman gave them to McMillan and the FBI but Jimmy would not give them to me. He kept that LEAA card secret from me and instead, behind the back and while I was investigating for the evidentiary hearing, had it checked through an ultra-extreme right lawyer who was General Walker's lawyer. Twice when I saw him on the way to New Orleans he refused to provide these leads for me to investigate when I had the best possible means of doing it. And to top it all off he had Jerry sneaking around behind Jim's back and mine to arrange for that other disaster, Kershaw.

So what has all this fellish publicity done except make Mark Lane rich and keep him in the public eye to get more college appearances at \$1500 each? It has destroyed what little credibility Jimmy had left from all his prior tricks and lies, none of which was smart. (He could have told Hule to go to hell instead of lying because Hule was in violation of the agreement in his demands.)

I'm very sorry about all of this because although Jimmy would not listen from the time of the evidentiary hearing on I've been working and have much. How much good it now will or can do only time will tell. But had it not been for Jimmy's very bad personal behavior and his wretchedly bad treatment of Jim I think much would have come to pass by now. He prevented it by his personal acts.

Do not misunderstand me. I still do not think he shot Dr. King. I do know he was not truthful yesterday. I do not know why. I do know Lane should have prevented it.

Scoring debating points against the New York Times got Lane publicity but did not help Jimmy or John and there is no way by which it could. To Jerry's child's mind it was a big deal. And it was funny. But how does it help? Of course it?

You all had now better think of yourselves, especially John, who cannot be helped by this and may be hurt seriously by what Lane's pal Fauntroy does today. We'll have to wait and see.

8/19/78 Well, we have seen, still more disasters for Jimmy and Lane's pal Fauntroy putting on the witnesses who, as I told you months ago, destroyed this alibi nonsense Lane fell for and talked so much about and Jimmy accepted and used in his testimony. In legal terms this is much more damaging than the headlines will make it seem because they will be spending some words on the incredible committee irresponsibility with that British faker. (Lane lucked through some on that one on a personal level but he ruined Jimmy more in the way he handled it. He got the headlines and Jimmy got his throat cut, as the headline in our local paper will reflect. It will be enclosed, too, to give you another example.) If Lane had behaved as a real lawyer instead of a childish bully looking for fights his approach would have been entirely different. He would have prevented the committee from using a palpably false and entirely unchecked story. But because he doesn't care for Jimmy and does live for attention, which means more college speech fees, he did it the wrong way, to get himself Perry Mason space on TV and the hell with what it does to what was left of Jimmy's credibility.

He is still saying that Gracie is the most important witness. Not so long ago he was saying that Charlie Stephens is the most important witness. Now he is saying that the witness against Charlie is. In actuality, we destroyed all of that in the evidentiary hearing and if he dares use "Gracie he'll hurt Jimmy even more.

What these hearings show is that even today Lane knows nothing about the facts of the case, knows nothing about Jimmy and the way Jimmy's mind works, and has done nothing to investigate. Of course there is the question of judgement in Jimmy's talking to these characters and appearing before them. If Jimmy and Jerry still think that was right they are really crazy.

Jimmy, by the way, is twisted on Hurlay and Copeland. They relate to something else.

As of yesterday Jerry was still clowning, with Lane as the ringmaster. If he did as he told me he did he staged a phoney suffender on the bank charge, on TV. This is not even grown up as much as greasy kid stuff. It could do no good for anyone and makes the effort to help Jimmy look more ridiculous.

There is something else you should know for the future. I think there can yet be a future, although like all the other Jimmy exploits he hurt his chances very much. In all the months since he ambles chased himself into the case Lane has not once asked me for any help. I can't honestly tell you that I would have if he had. I can tell you that if he does now I will not. The reason is because if what work I have done, and there is much of which you do not know, is going to be of help to Jimmy it can't be with the dishonest, self-serving and self-promoting approach of a shyster. I know Lane as he is, not as he says he is. Not as Jerry dreams. Not as the phoniness of his battling ghosts on TV to make himself famous and lap up all those college appearances at \$1500 each - none helping Jimmy at all.

I can't tell you that as usual Jimmy made a bad decision before his appeal was exhausted. I made two trips to jail to discuss with him taking the new evidence road. He then was neither honest nor decent enough to tell me that he was dealing behind Jim's back, through Jimmy, with right-wing shysters like Kershaw. Well, you know where that and what followed led. So I've been working on this without Jimmy. I really believe that if he had not decided as he has, not behaved as he has, especially toward Jim, we might well have had some success. What has just happened has set this back. I do not share Jim's pessimistic view of how long but the reality is that there has been a significant setback. I'll continue to work toward this end, hoping that Jimmy does not dream up more pointless and self-defeating schemes that never work.

I paid close attention to the testimony, particularly to Jimmy and what he said. He said a number of things he never told me.

Except for the FBI nobody will pick these up. Even Jim didn't. I'll explain them to him when we are together. These are among the many things Jimmy should have told me from the outset and never did. I questioned him in those areas and he told me nothing. It is not only that he should have volunteered it - it is that I did ask him. It was stupid to hold back from Jim and me and it was utterly insane not to do everything possible for the evidentiary hearing, regardless of how the cards were stacked. It was the only game that held any immediate chance.

To give you another illustration of how serious the committee was on following up conspiracy leads, the Fauntroy gig, Fauntroy being Lane's chum until Lane began to worry about a malpractice action, Jimmy testified to having been given two different New Orleans numbers and one in Baton Rouge. You should remember that he refused to give me these to investigate even though he gave them to Foreman, who gave them to McMillan, who I think told you. This is to say that he gave them to everyone except his own defense, which is really insane. (I know that Jerry has them and is holding them back still, as he and Jimmy did with that Rosenzweig card business.) Now if the committee was really serious it would have leaned on Jimmy for those numbers so it could investigate them. But it didn't even ask for them.

I'm sorry about the present situation but I'm glad that John is getting out on parole. This again illustrates that whatever the odds against it the only way is the straight way. Jim succeeded. I hope that John can get a job and make it.

If there are any more of these stunts, I hope you will stay out of them.

I've rambled in trying to inform you so I'll try to summarize. I'll keep working as I have because nothing can be done right now, not until after the evil effects of the committee are past. The odds are now worse but it is not impossible. It is impossible with Jimmy, because he never learns from any mistake and repeats them all. It is impossible for me to have anything to do with Lane. I have no interest in doing anything publicly against him. In time he and Jimmy will separate but Jerry will still live in his special dream world.

If I see anything in the papers you should know I'll send it, as I hope you will do with what appears out there. If you send anything to me do not worry about sending a copy to Jim. I'll do that, as I always do. If you hear of anything I should know, please pass it along. You may have no way of knowing what is relevant, what can be important, as small things can be. Even a name that means nothing to you. This goes for John, too, when you see him in a month. And above all, for your own sakes and for your kids' future, please stay detached from all these pointless public relations tricks on which Lane lives and Jerry lives.

Remember also that in a few more months the committee will be past but the FBI will not be. It stands to be hurt very much but not at all in the way Jimmy dreams, over the dirty things it did to him. They are not relevant in his situation or to the crime. It also is and will be powerful so I really believe the best thing for you and your family and for John is to live your own lives and not be party to any of the games that by now it should be clear have not worked and will never work in Jimmy's interest.

If you can tell me any of what he is holding back I hope you will. I have put a fair amount of it together, at the cost of great time and money. None of it is hurtful to him except in terms of his credibility.

One area of new vulnerability for him is the map Oliver had. I can believe it was a fake, was planted, for I see no need for him or Jerry to have heeded any map. If you hear anything about it please let me know.

I hope all of you can now lead a quieter and more peaceful life and a happier one.

Sincerely,

Please excuse the typing errors. I have to get to the work I've let slide all week.