

Dear Jerry,

12/9/77

The tape you mailed the 5th came yesterday. I listened to all of it this morning. I read what you sent me of the ~~fact~~ story. It was not complete. It also does not show that I have ever talked to him. I note you do not argue when I told you I did not say what you claimed I did to him. I have not said any such thing to anyone simply because I have never believed it and if I were going to say something I do not believe, which I do not do, it would have to be because some purpose would be served. No purpose would have been served by my allegedly saying there was no Raoul, etc.

Now on the Rosenson thing, you give a different version that can be credible. The earlier ones were not. Obviously Jimmy had to have a point of contact. Equally obviously when he had a real defense and a real shot in open court he was silent, keeping this among them many secrets he had from his defense. In time his game of doing this, with your help, may ruin him if he does get a shot at a trial. No judge and no jury would go for his line that he said only what it was necessary to say. He did not know. He paints himself paranoid at best with this kind of conduct. You and I have been through that and you also did not make possible what you could have made possible. You know that I also took this up with "toner."

If you and Lane have something as you call it Top Secret going, well I hope it ~~works~~ works out. I've also been down that highway with you and with Lane, who always has something big going, just to promote himself. While claiming exactly the opposite. If he does have it this time, well, there has to be a first and I hope for you and Jimmy this is it.

Your boastings are silly, like a boy who has no girl talking loudly about how he makes out. Whether they relate to you or to Lane. I knew about the trick on McMillan. It may have been fun for you but it meant nothing else. It did no good. You know George was even afraid to accept letters from me, leave alone appear with me. You know that when he ran off at the mouth about what he'd do I sent him a map showing how to get here. If you want the same about Lane, I have it. He talks big and is yellow. He'll not get on the same stage or the same show with me, having done it and remembering only too well what has happened. He can play these games with a baby Hoosier like you are a stirbugs Jimmy, but not with those who have subject knowledge or prior knowledge of him.

I was about to say you'll learn. Unfortunately you and Jimmy never learn. I'll say instead that in time you'll find out. Until then I have no more time to waste on this foolish business. Like your bragging him up for spending a few bucks on a local lawyer. That was only because he doesn't really do any work. But what have you to say about the years of spending our own money when we had no income, which is what Jim and I did, or for all your dislike of him and my many disagreements with him, how much "ad" spent? You are not even an intelligent child to boast that kind of silliness about Lane.

I see he's been stuffing your head about the committee in terms of Sprague's departure. "consensus. Sprague is the main one it trumps the committee to a preconception of Jimmy's guilt. This is why I had to break off with him. I've told you and Jimmy this but you are like moths attracted to the candle, you have to burn yourselves. No burn.

Any clown or bullshit artist can get on TV if he is willing to make or give a show. But show me what good it has done Jimmy? What do you think will be the result if he is even in a position to take the stand? If he has never lied and only been misquoted, can he live long enough to explain away all the contradictions? Who would now believe him?

I liked your explanation for Lane, that he can't tie himself up in cases. Have you forgotten these are the exact words Foreman used on you and John?

Long ago I tried to remind you that even babies learn from hot irons. You and Jimmy have not yet advanced to infancy. You still reach for hot irons. And both of you talk and act crazy, convinced that you are both geniuses. Jimmy, for example, would have nothing to do with a project I described to him more than two years ago, a means by which I hoped to get records that could be of value to him. They he saw and did not understand the Jack Anderson column. He does not have to ask what it is all about or how it came about. He is this instant genius. Immediately he just knew that I had obtained that record (which the column does not state) because he gave me a release for what the FBI calls personal papers about him. It made no difference that I wrote immediately when I got those records and told

him what they are, that I had given a set to Jim and that I would give them to Jimmy if he wanted them. A long time passed and then this instant genius shows itself after the column appears in a really crazy letter to the FBI in which Jimmy tries to tell them that I'm working for them. They've split guts over that one. So I take time he is no longer worth and write Jimmy again, explaining all over again what I'd told him before. A little gets through that thick "occider skull and what does he do? He writes Jim and asks Jim to get for him what I've gotten on my own, having nothing to do with either Jimmy or his release or his so-called personal records. Of course Jim phoned me to ask me. And of course I said no way. I did give Jim the personal records, which are not all that many pages. But I can't afford to pay for all the copies of all the papers I get to give to him and I don't try. If Jim should need anything I have for ~~myself~~ himself he knows I'll give him anything. But if he wanted to there is no way he can give Jimmy or anyone else what is my property. In this case he has had enough experience with Lane, if not also with Jimmy, not to be tempted. I'm doing exactly what I said. When I've gotten all I'm after I'll put together exactly what I said I would and it is going to prove exactly what I said it would prove. Jimmy will be the beneficiary. It will not be because of anything he has done - it will be in spite of him and his sick indecencies and cheap dishonesties. He ~~still~~ says I'm a stoolie working for the FBI and then he asks for my work? ~~ASK~~ our dog has more common sense than to bite the hand from which he hopes to feed.

So make all the big speeches you want about how honest Lane is and how you and Jimmy never lie - both of you have lied to me - and believe it all if you want.

You have been ruinous, as in time you'll learn. There is no point in my trying to explain to you because you know better than to listen. I can't undo that. But I'm still going to do what I can to help Jimmy, in spite of both of you and your ethics that would disgrace a barnyard that has not been cleaned in years.

What I can't understand is how if Jimmy can say I'm working for the FBI he also can want anything to do with any of my work. (Which is hardly limited to the FBI anyway.) I also can't understand why he or you need any help if you have this greatest of all lawyers, The Honorable Mark Lane - and I'm just an old chicken farmer. It can't be that he can't do what I do can it? Or that he will not try to? And if he is so able why does he not seek what Jimmy needs, whether it be of me or of Jim. What is he for besides being on TV and getting fat fees for lectures (based where it is truthful on what he has stolen)?

The headline on Jacob's story is "How Much Does Jerry Ray Know?" The answer is "Not Much." Not enough to know he is out of his depth and goes from one stupidity and one disaster to another. I'm sorry for you, too.

Sincerely,