

Dear Jim,

5/14/74

When we spoke last night you said that you had decided to write an article on the spectro case, which I took to mean the entire thing, for a law journal or another. I was discouraging but said that if you insist it should be for a law journal.

My own situation is one that has not made it possible for me to say I have really thought this through. However, I had a combination of instinct and reason that tells me that neither one of us should.

At the same time, I tell you that if you disagree and if you really believe this is what you should do, I will not only not oppose it but I will do all I can to help.

Before you told me this I had taken what I regard as the right initiative, phoned Larry at GDN and in his absence (until today) had a long and I think effective conversation with another reporter. I think that the return of Bob Grusenberg, who knows us both and is in Washington, can be helpful if GDN does go for it. And I think that any decent piece written by one other than us is infinitely more effective than anything we can do if only because we are partisans.

If GDN does not go for this, there remain other alternatives.

Others services, papers, committees and lawyers.

I think either of us is the least preferred alternative.

Particularly because the original sin is Bud's. Neither of can't honestly address this without confession of the most basic error and he made it over my (and often your) insistences and objections that sometimes were forceful. Neither of us wants to hurt him. We would in all honesty have to say that he repeated this same basic error despite promises repeated at each step that he would address that central issue.

If you want to, we can explore the alternatives jointly. But if you are determined to write this yourself, it will not be without my blessing and help, and one of the helps I can think of is other examples of the same false swearing. Another is repeated cases that I think did cross into perjury, the records of my ignored complaints to the AG and to judges and anything else along these lines you want.

Think it over.

I must have some kind of ESP for I was uneasy all day yesterday until I heard from Jim Forney, ABC news, NY. I had a visitor and engaged in long conversation rather than speeding back to work. I was quite conscious of this uneasy feeling but could attribute it to nothing. I had forgotten you told me the justices were considering this the end of last week and I did not know they would report so rapidly. This was not within my consciousness. Yet as soon as I finished talking to Forney I had some relief, felt much better. (Until other things happened later in the day.) Late at night I had a call from a reporter friend at CBS' all-news, clear-channel WBBM, Chicago. He did a keeper. Art Kevin is the only other one who called. I saw nothing in this a.m.'s Post, despite a number of stories on yesterday's decisions.

Best.