

Dear Phil,

1/2/85

You've had a meeting with Jimmy Ray and I think indicated expecting to hear from Jerry. This is to prepare you! Believe me, from that meeting and from the first thing you'll get from Jerry you'll not be prepared for the utterly impossible reality. All of which I'll not begin to try to convey.

Because writing is so difficult for him, Jerry started communicating with me by tape years ago, when he was still in Chicago. Among his strange notions is that a big lie told straight is a joke and a con job and thus legitimate. I played along with him, pretending I believed almost anything he said, in the hope that some good might come of it. I knew from Jimmy that Jerry did his bidding, and who else did Jimmy have? His pretenses include having an affair with Ben Bradlee's then mistress, now wife, Sally Quinn and ranged up to and including the really stupid, that Reagan wrote him personal letters signed "Ron." Now he refers to Reagan and his gang as whores. As of my last knowledge, which is some time ago, because as I've told him I've not been listening to his tapes - utter timewasters for me since illness - and don't know what he is into now. I'm sure I can guess. He has the incredible notion that his wretched singing voice is beautiful, and he spent years desecrating tapes with his concept of country music. Crude racism is his idea of a joke. And such diatribes, what he considers political. He regards himself as Christian, patriotic, true Americanism, etc., and he has for years referred to Mark Lane as "The Holy Man." And believes it.

The last tape has written on it "name of publisher," which I take to be of Jimmy's forthcoming for years ghosted book. I don't really give a damn but I've been curious about what kind of hack would try and sell anything attributed to Jimmy name, so after several days, when as now is not uncommon, I was tired and just sitting, I started to listen to it. When he began his gimmickry I knew it was to be more of the same grabage, what I've told him I don't listen to and hang the phone up when he tried it by phone. So that is where I stopped listening. However, I believe the half hour or so will be informative and educational for you, so I send it herewith. But with the understanding that you will not let him or anyone else know.

There is always the possibility that I judge him wrongly this time but if as I think I do I know him very well, you'll get a selection of what I indicate above. And it will give you a better understanding of him that anything I say, even if for him he is more subdued because he knows I've been ignoring him entirely.

There will probably be a bit of his concept of acting, ~~xxxx~~ parroted from some movie, show or TV crap that impressed him years ago. And if he refers to himself as Boss, that is a nickname he picked for himself and insists that others always use. I haven't.

My collection of his tapes could make a novelist's treasure because the most imaginative mind could not begin to invent the reality of what Jerry is.

And if Jimmy's book ever comes out, as possibly with an extremist or bankrupt publisher it might, so far as I am concerned, sufficient unto the day.... From Jerry's account over the years, Jimmy has drafted much for his ghost. While it is always possible that he may let something slip, I do not expect it. Except, perhaps, subliminally.

Hope you have a good year,