

Dear Phil,

12/5/78

If I get an expected phone call I'll not read the clips with your 12/3 until later. No call and I'll read them when I finish this. I want to get outside, as health requires. First sun in several days.

Lardner, the one reporter at the Friday hearing I could ask, does not have the Stokes statistics. I guess he assumed they would have them typed out because he says he asked for them and was told this had not been done.

I asked him to ask for those pages of the transcript. He said they'd turn him down, as they have me. I asked him to let them do it but to ask and he said he would. If I get them I'll send them promptly.

When he answered the phone he said he was just about to phone me. It is over the story from various wires in today's Post, which we'll copy for you and enclose. His or his editor's view is that Lane has now latched onto the Jones money through Terry Buford, reportedly living with him down there.

Oddly several hours earlier my wife had the same wonder, as I had not when I read the story.

Lane was on net TV at 11 last night with her, my wife tells me. I was on the phone with others. Not about King or Ray. Feed from Wps affiliate of that net. So I suppose you know this and more.

I don't know what Lardner is going to do or the Post or if he has an assigned story but I think he must.

He and I have gotten along well for ten years despite our wide disagreements in part because I make no effort to influence his thinking and never ask what he believes or is driving at.

This is why I have to guess. My guess is that the Post believes as my wife did and is going to do a Lane story around the millions and Buford.

They'd be less than human if they forget what he has said about them, individually and collectively, and been well paid for it.

Lane is a creature of the press, which made him and has tolerated much from him. From the first they have used him to put all others down and to give honest inquiry a bad name. Now he may be past that point with some of the major media because of his various accounts of the Jonesville catastrophe and his role in it. And now commercializing it. A week ago I was told at the college where I spoke that his lecture bureau is phoning around, not writing, to place him and at an even higher fee than his usual high one. Another story is that he is getting \$25,000 for five articles. Still another is a book. So it accumulates into a bit much for one with his past and foul mouth.

I have taken and will take no initiatives about it. But I'd be less than honest if I did not tell you that I hope he is done in and retires to some law practise if he is not disbarred, which I think he deserves. He has been the single largest and most influential disinformation operator of all, as the committee's effectiveness should have shown. The fact is that they went easy on him given what is available.

Fascinating how little attention your papers gave the unusual of Lesar asking Stokes to step outside and shed immunity to repeat his libel - and Stokes being afraid to do it. Featured on all TV nets, which accurately reflects newsworthiness.

Best,

12/3/78

HW:

Can you get me copy of Stokes' summation, in which he names staffs
& recounts moneys spent? Thanks.

PM