

5/27/72

Dear Bill,

In my haste early this morning to get the article off to you, I forgot to include another query. I can do what I think would be a helluva piece on Pershing Gervais and his framing of Garrison for the federal government.

I don't know what, if anything, you have used on him, but I know him well, have a rather robust file on him, and knew him well enough to know that while he was setting Garrison up under pressure he was careful to do an incompetent job, as incompetent as he felt he could pull on the federals. At the time I sent Louis Ivon long memos on this and other aspects as I analyzed the official copies of the affidavits.

It would be a not difficult task to go over that work and include it in the new, that Pershing is now doublecrossing again, and the old, my own personal contacts with him, which are rich in the kind of language only an honestly crooked crook with a gift of gab could and would use. What Pershing told me is far out stuff about himself, his own crookedness, his fixing and his framing. Withal we were good friends. He did me favors.

I had a dead giveaway that he had been fixed by the feds from my last meeting with him, which I recall very well. It has to do with his alleged reason for setting Jim up, the Viet Nam war. It is the opposite of what he is quoted as saying after the charges were filed, and it was so positive it could not be the kind of thing about which a man would change his mind.

I used to drink regularly with Pershing at the Fountainbleau in N.O., usually with an assortment of others, judge, bail-bondsmen, lawyers, race-track types, etc.

Let me know. Meanwhile, I'll gather more update, if I can.

Although they denied it, the government did make a deal with Pershing. They denied it under oath and prior to that, to Mackenzie, of the Washington Post, who immediately suspected it. Aside from unhooking him from any charges, the deal was a \$22,000 per year tax free. This is not as exceptional as it may seem. I have other cases like it. I've been collecting them for a book I plan in the future, "I, Spy", the accounts of finks who finked out. Some are pretty wild. Some cases led to fights between the FBI and the Secret Service. Many were the cause of violence, like bombings. The trouble the feds went to with Gervais is not excessive, from what I know. Considering that they wanted to get Jim, Gervais could have gotten more if he'd know what they have done in other cases.

I really don't need more than I have for a decent piece, but I'll see if there is anything important I don't already have in hand. No reason why it can't be the best.

Sincerely,