

10/10/70

Dear Gary,

As these memos reflect, I am quite concerned about what to me is a now obvious ego kick on which Bud is launched, perhaps irretrievably, given his combinations, beginning with ego and ambitions and over-simplified approach (he's going to solve the crimes). The whole business remains on my mind, intruding when I do not expect it and when I am not, consciously, thinking of it. A little incident comes to mind. I was sitting, resting and looking at the TV news when all of a sudden, there was the recollection.

It was last Thursday. I had just settled in his office when he started bragging that he had something I didn't have. Good, I said, what is it? Exhibit 710, he gloated.

I then said he hadn't even begun to read COUP, for it had been in there for more than two years. Furthermore, I told him, it belonged in a context, and if that is all he had gotten, he sure had missed the real significance. He was not at all happy, and it is shortly after this that he began his tirade to which I referred earlier. I, of course, didn't want that, didn't want any discussion of such serious matters when unwell and especially when we were subject to interruption or, as he was then soon to arrange it, the spontaneous creation of an interruption.

This little incident illustrates two things to me:

First of all, he just doesn't do any work, not even easy work, like reading. I loaned him a manuscript copy of COUP two years ago. Then I gave him a copy of the complete thing, which he replaced through Paul. As of last week, and even after I got him Ray as a client, he hadn't read the book!

Next, he, like Garrison, is just dying to do something that has some meaning, to get something new and with his whole stinking committee and three men working in his office, that he has not been able to do. (One of these men has gone back to school.)

I think the problem is a more polite duplicate of Garrison, where Bud is just incapable of doing or getting anything on his own and resents it when I can and do and let him have it. His unrequited ego is just killing him.

The coincidence between this little incident and his uncharacteristic outburst just struck me. I think it is like two and two.

Because of what can come pass, I believe I should take the time to make these notes. In this case I haven't sent it to Mary, for I fear it may be too much for her. She has enough trouble.

I think we are pretty close to the point where Bud and his characters may be more of a liability than a help (Jim Lesar is an exception—he is great, but compromised). I was so damned mad last week, I invited him to resign from the cases. I shouldn't have, and it is good that he backed off, but fast. However, I was quite serious in what I wrote him today. I'm giving him no more. I think it would be very hurtful for him to leave the spectro case now. The others I'm doing myself, anyway. Considering what he has done, today's letter was a kindness. He had a big story in Bill Webb's Manchester Union-Leader saying he has the largest collection of evidence (which is false with regard to volume as it is to content, and almost none of what he has is his), and he planted a story in the National Enquirer saying that his committee was doing the investigation for the Ray suit, which is rotten as it is false. Anyway, I'll keep you posted. Best,