

9.12/70

Dear Gary,

Nothing in last night's note to you and Mary, adressed to uer, is in error, but it is incomplete because I do not want to worry uer. What it boils down to is that through Jim's I've lied it on the line to Bud and after this hearing, if they do not rectify all the evils I have itemized, I'll probably take some drastic action to strighten it out. I've done everything on the Ray case so far, and he's freezing me out of everything and making bad mistakes, as expectable. So, I'm also having to do the cleaning up again. For all of this I'm not about the permit the Flemmondes and Spragues to louse it up, nor Bud to do so in his own right. It has never dawned on him, but I made it explicit to Jim: my book on this case is done and I wish my work on it could be done, for there are other things I want to do. The only reason for my continuing interest and work on the Ray case is to prevent evil and help where I can do what others cannot. Unfortunately, there is too much that other cannot do, and to a degree this extends to the law, in which, I find, many lawyers have less confidence than I can find.

Not only has Bud not, as I've told you, not used me as the investigator on the case but he has sued others. It is not improper for the investigator on the case to have access to certain things where it is improper for others to. The deal was that he'd take me with him whenever he was in court or with Ray, so he has done neither. He has gotten absolutely nothing from Ray (which should not be held against him) and there have been courtroom blunders. The lawyer, Murphy, he trusted on the Grace Stephens case left an inadequate record so the chances are that, if they want to use her, they can't (which also means that 100% of what they have so far is mine). I told you Bud phoned me to rough out the first brief he was called upon to prepare. He omitted from it what I emphasized most, and those are the things he now has to add. They know so little I had to stop everything as soon as Mary left to do their work on Ray's state of mind. And so you'll know and there'll be a record, with this breaking of his work - even letting me be stuck with the cost of the phone calls by which I got him the case - I have still offered the entire book to go into court evidence. This, I'll bet, you'll find entirely without precedent, it not yet having appeared, and I have the publisher's agreement. He will furnish page proofs for Bud, the judge and the prosecution.

Not only have they not used me as the investigator and analyst, but there are two significant things bearing on this. When Bud came back with his first collection of court records, he asked me to analyze them. I dropped everything and did. He has yet to find time to go over these with me in his office or to come here, as he was then supposed to, to learn what I found. I gave some of it to Jim yesterday. They later got more, following up what I had, and that they didn't give me to go over until yesterday, and I'll start it today. But the brief was due in four days, and Bud is away for the weekend! So, the brief will not be in on schedule, which may not be serious.

I laid the conflicts on the line to Jim, as I had to Bill, Bud's partner. Other things there was less time for. I spelled it out that I could and would make a case that Bud had not spent the time he could and should have spent in his client's behalf, and when Jim argued, I documented. So, that there will be no question about. The one thing of which Bud had shown an awareness, according to Jim, is the conflict he'd have in talking to the big-name whores who have flocked around the case, like Gerold Frank, and has not been talking to them (Flemmonde instead!).

Even when I gave him written conditions for the use of COUP, which was, as I spelled out, also for his protection, and gave him a letter to Ray for Ray to sign, signifying his agreement (Ray having asked for permission to use it),

he not only didn't get the letter signed and returned to me, but he also didn't get COUP II back when I asked for it. When I pressed for it, I just learned from Jim yesterday that Ray had given it to Stoner, claiming that I had said it was okay. He had to have known better, for he knows there has never been any contact between me and Ray and I've told him of every one with Jerry, from whom I've not heard since he went to join Stoner. If there is nothing I can do about it, I'm getting pretty tired of people with public hair but without ~~the~~ without the sense to wipe themselves.

Now do you tell a guy who does not have bad intentions that he is neither as bright or as wise as he thinks, especially when he is a lawyer and you are not (and the points of law, even, I directed him to, saying as the record now shows is right that certain precedents had to have been established and would show up on a proper search.

The original deal was also that he seek big-name co-counsel (I tried but he apparently has not) and local counsel to do what I was confident (and was right) Ryan could not do. His estimate of Ryan was wrong and he did get local counsel, and didn't even tell me about it. Obviously, I have no way of knowing all that this fellow (Jim thinks he knows local criminal law well) has done, but the only evidence I thus far have is to return to the original brief those things I said should be in and Bud left out. I saw the interlining yesterday!

Bud had told Jim he thinks at some point he has to have me spend a few days in Memphis nosing around. I told Jim horseshit. The time for that is far away and I haven't the slightest intention of being the cleanup man behind others. They have no need for any of this until Ray gets a trial, and I don't have to be a lawyer to know I'm right and Bud is wrong. The thing to this date they have needed me for and Bud has prevented is to be with him when he talks to Ray and when in court. You know my record, in some way I really cannot explain, in getting people to talk to me when they will not to others. That, and for purposes of appraisal, is the reason I wanted to be with Ray, and to establish a basis for later trust, if that is possible.

I don't think Bud is consciously a bad guy. I think, as I said earlier, it is no more than an hurt ego. He just doesn't do anything on his own and is not content to have it given to him, even under conditions where publicly, he gets credit for it, where I do not. But let me tell you that on the case we won, it is what he didn't see and I did, the letters I drafted, that did the job, and so far on the Ray case, the one significant thing we have is of precisely this origin, a thing obvious to me they missed. Contrary to what may seem obvious, this does not make me happy. I do not find it comfortable to be an indispensable man, for as you know, I'm getting more and more tired, more and more broke, and further and further behind in the writing and investigating I still want to do and do not see getting done any other way.

Jim did give Bud my message that I wanted him to write everyone who had had access to Bud's files and return what they had taken. He told Jim to draft the letter and Jim showed it to me. As for intentions, nothing else. I told him now to rewrite it and way and he is to do that. I'm demanding the return of every copy of everything sent or taken other than bears the imprint of the organization. I will then go over it and remove what is mine and return the ~~xxx~~ rest. What a hell of a way to have to spend time!

On the memos in response to Paul's, I've gotten copies from Sylvia and Jim Smith, who works with Bud. Neither is even close to adequate. Sylvia's is very good as far as it goes. Jim's is bad, full of gratuities that Alvarez can take out of context in almost every paragraph, even with fine praises! Hastily,