

12/27/76

Dear J.B.,

What I heard from Jerry today is so unreal and so misrepresentative I feel I should send you a carbon, as I do of the letter I wrote him early this morning. I do not want him misrepresenting it to you and I do think you should know the rest as it relates to what he told me for the first time. I did tell him I was sending you a copy of the previous letter so now he says I send you all our correspondence! This and the other things he says makes me wonder if he, too, is stir bugs.

After I wrote him Jim Lesar phoned me about another matter. In the course of the conversation he told me about a story in the Washington Star of several days ago, an interview with Sprague. As it relates to the King assassination it can relate to Jerry only. Jim thought at first it related to Jimmy. But when Sprague is talking about making people talk by giving them immunity, since they can't give Jimmy the death sentence and when he is doing 99 years there is no meaning in any immunity grant to him to circumvent the Fifth Amendment.

The interview was with one Jeremiah O'Leary. You may remember that the FBI leaked much poison to him and he wrote about it in the Readers Digest. Jimmy was upset by it. O'Leary is one of the reporters who also worked for the CIA. He appears to have and his paper for years had a cozy relationship with the FBI and with Hoover personally.

While he is not clear on it Jerry seems to have spoken to and written the House committee.

He has had several conversations with Lane, long ones. Lane conned him easily, most by playing up to him over McMillan. There is no way I can explain this to you. I did warn him long ago. I did tell Jim Lesar and he did warn Jimmy about the Lane/Freed gang, long ago. Jimmy paid no attention. He engaged in a correspondence with Freed and saw Lane, who promptly used the fact that he saw him to promote himself on the air and in writing. Lane has even told Lesar that Jimmy engaged Lane to be his lawyer. He did this in writing. I did tell Jerry about the attempt with the Tennesseean before it was killed, that long ago. That is not the only such effort but I thought if he knew of one it should be enough. Even when you confirmed part of it to him - he told me at the time - he still goes off on something like this, and Jimmy too?

After we spoke the other day my wife told me I had been speaking too loudly. I'm sorry. It is that these insanities do upset me and undo much work. It was this, not you, that is responsible.

With Jerry I do not hide it. You will see that I write him as it is in the old southern story about the jackass and the 2x4. From my experiences the probabilities of getting through are better with the jackass.

Sincerely,

Dear Jerry,

12/27/76

During severe weather or when there is snow on the ground or when it is raining I follow a different routine. I start getting my day's exercise to the hour-long 7 a.m. TV news. I bicycle in the house with a stationary bicycle. This works my legs, which make the blood circulate in them. Since I saw you I've done about 250 miles this way at an average speed of about 15 mph. Some days I do as much as 15 miles.

I have about 15 minutes before then. When I was shaving earlier I heard something on the radio that reminded me of all the craziness about which I have been able to do nothing with any of you. So I'll use these few minutes to update you.

J.B. phoned me Xmas day. He understood clearly enough what I was driving at in the letter to you I told you I'd send him. He also sees it clearly enough. We talked for about a half hour. He is going to do what you did not, come here and see what I have been doing while you all have been jackassing. He understands it legally as you and Jimmy do not, so clearly that he said the meaning without me having to tell him.

If you have been reading any papers, listening to the radio or watching TV you should have come to realize that what I was telling you about the committee and about Fauntroy in particular is absolutely true, maybe a little worse than I said because they have disclosed their hand so fully and so soon. They are doing exactly what I told Jimmy they would do, use him and the King assassination as sucker bait to get their life extended and to get an appropriation.

I don't always spot all there is to spot but I did this time and went to work right away. The first sign was their leak to the Jack Anderson column. I spoke to two reporters. I called them. One called Jim. If it had not been for this the stories would have been even worse. They'd have made it look like the family, for example, was the source of those lies. (Jim may be right in thinking it could be Avery.) I got at least one to phone Fauntroy and Lane. Fauntroy had to ease off on his b.s. and Lane had to say that he did not believe it. The rest of Lane's statement is bad. It makes Jimmy look like a conscious conspirator and the killer, too.

I have not seen the other paper. It is a major paper, not Washington, and the local news stand was closed Xmas day. Jim was to get it in Washington but we have not spoken since then.

I'm telling you again, even though to now it has been a waste of time, you and Jimmy are playing the game of your enemies. You are ruining yourselves. You think you understand public relations and how the political mind works and on these things you are a baby. If you did not learn from McMillan I guess you'll never learn. I started warning you against what you were doing in 1969 but you paid no attention. If it had not been for you, with a little assist from John, he would never have had a book. That book is a bomb but it is the excuse for getting him all over TV and radio.

I think J.B. will tell you what he thinks so I'll not. But he clearly understood what you were risking doing to yourself in all this, too.

These people are out to get all of you, and I told you all to begin with. Jimmy, naturally, is the Perry Mason of the thick walls. What happens outside of them means nothing. What he tells himself does. So he does only what is wrong and hurtful, as you did in what you told Jimmy. What you can do to help is send Jim or me the clippings from the papers. The Chicago and St. Louis papers may carry different stories with different quotations. When you write Carol ask her to do this to. Whichever of us gets them will give the other copies. These can be important so please do it. We have the Anderson column of the 24th but begin with the stories that followed it. It is because I was sure that the papers would go for that stuff that I started working on it. As a result we have a better idea of what they are up to. Other accounts can add to this.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jerry Ray
P.O. Box 145
Lake Zurich, Ill. 60047

12/21/76

Dear Jerry,

I've paid close attention to every word of your 12/22, here today, and I guess all I can say is that you are the biggest boaster of them all. You brag about how bright you are and are stupidly boastful in other ways but you are well on the way to making a basket case of yourself.

Very little of it means anything and it is more than clear that there is about as much chance of getting through the cast iron around your brain as there is of rolling a snowball uphill in hell.

One of the craziest things you could have done was write what you call the Sprague committee. You are this world's greatest genius - you don't have to check anything, know anything or ask anything. You naturally don't pay any attention to anything I tell you because like the doctor who has to give a bitter pill the realities are unwelcome. But why in the world could you not have called Jim?

An example of how you make things up and then believe them is your saying I send J.B. copies of everything I write you. Childish. Until now I sent him only one, the letter in which I sought to warn you about holding your ass out for the first convenient sling. You know he will not lie to you. The only reason I did that is because you are like a baby and have to be protected from yourself. You have all these grandiose ideas about yourself but they are without basis. I took that time simply because I do not want you to get hurt and because I do hope that the day comes when you and Jimmy both stop ruining the chances you have not already ruined. As I wrote you this morning he did call me after he read what I sent, he does understand it and there is no disagreement between us on it. I did not have to even explain it to him. He said it on his own, right off.

If the statute has run on aiding and abetting you have already put yourself on record as lying to the FBI. This is not only another crime but it leave you no credibility. If I have the proof you lied can you imagine what the FBI has given the committee? I told you years ago that the only reason they did not charge you is so they could use you. You help them with every one of this childish things you do that you think are clever. Now tell me what the statute is on conspiracy? You talk like a lawyer and you are ignorant. Sure you can take the fifth. But these Washington types have nullified the Constitution, as you will learn when they okay, we give you immunity. Once you have immunity there is no fifth amendment the way they have it worked out and approved by court decisions.

I'm not going to paw through Lane's garbage in Midnight with you. I read it. That kind of stuff isn't even used for toilet paper any more. If he could have been in a better place he would have been. You assume that he is a crook with others, not you and Jimmy. So assume it. I can't take time to try to talk sense to those who will not listen. You knew months ago that his gang was after you and Jimmy and JB. I told you before JB told you that they had called JB. He then called you so you knew & know what I was talking about. If this makes no difference to you nothing can. JB remembers well enough. When I forgot to mention one of their names he did.

Maybe you have seen what Lane and Fauntroy and that committee gang have been up to since the 22d. If you can understand kindergarten English you know I have told you only the truth and in advance. Will you never learn? Can't you be content to be what you are without all these illusions of grandeur because the shores puff you up?

You said you have a clipping of Lane and that crazy Dick Gregory having a six-figure contract for a movie deal. Please send Jim or me a copy. This can become important later and we should know now. Gregory has nothing to do with it. Lane is using him because of his name and all the paid appearances he has on college campuses and things like that. I am not

guessing. I know. You are a sucker for him and he played you without even a fat worm on his hook. You are out of your mind if you think I agree with anything about McMillan. You also know better. I do not know why you say this unless it is a secret shame that you did not listen to me about his beginning in 1969. There is no relevance to the King assassination in McMillan's book. Lane is baiting you and Jimmy with that kind of irrelevancy. You have both swallowed a bare hook. Even a stupid fish knows better.

But how much crazier could you be than to send a copy of your letter to the committee? And not to Jim, the lawyer? Not to ask him? What can you testify to about the King assassination unless you are part of it? Congress can't investigate books, so all of McMillan's rubbish is outside their authority, except that you have helped them go for it.

So you agreed to take a lie detector test because "they are pretty accurate." You then say 95%. You don't even know what they are. They are what the operator makes them. In this case it will be a prosecutor's operator and he will make them say what the prosecutorial mind wants them to say, not what is in your mind.

I can't imagine a bigger baby or a bigger fool that you are being.

How before you start your normal process of talking yourself into something rather than facing yourself and all these really stupid things you have done why don't you ask yourself what I have to gain by taking this time with you? There is no possible way it can help me or any book I'd write. What you do and do not do can't have any bearing on anything I do or make or can make. It can put you in jail, not me. It can make things worse for Jimmy, not me.

You'll find out how beneficial to Jimmy anything Lane does or can do can be. If you are not aware of what he and his cronies Santroy and the other cronies Sprague and the rest of that gang have been so clear on.

Believe me or not as you see fit. Only do send Jim or me every clipping you see. If you give them to me I'll give them to him, as I always do. You have no way of knowing what they can mean.

If you think that those guys are not going to assume you are part of something and you keep going on this assumption you'll have years of solitude to reflect on your mistake. I told you in 1974 that "Aile, after he had been drinking for a while, told me that for sure you and Jimmy and J.B. did the job. I've told you and I can now show you the transcript to prove it that all this committee had given to it was the prosecution line. Improved by the lies of the guy I went after. I don't know if I did it but I do hear he is no longer there.

I'm sorry for you,

sincerely,