



Two friends are trying to get the Bantam speakers' bureau to book me! I doubt it, not only from the past but from what I did to their v.p. legal in Memphis. But it is a good feeling that people try.

What anxiety I have is of two causes: Jim owes the money for the printer and there clearly is a change of attitude that I can't successfully exploit. To this day I've not heard of a nasty comment and I've received none. I've no doubt at all that in time this book will return more than the printer's bill.

Of course I'm also a little uneasy that the remaining talk shows of the past, like Eason and Spann out there and Jerry Williams in Boston have had no interest. They did sell many for me in the past and they do have an interested audience.

But I think the real cause of the uneasiness is what I've spent a lot of time trying to cope with, both Bud and the State in the Ray case. Bud could not respond to the hot charges I fired at him and didn't. Instead he went out of his way to do what he knew was wrong, lean on Ray. The typical coward's way. My problem with this is that I can't level with Ray as fully as I'd like. He wrote me a long letter including subtle reflection of his uneasiness with Bud and going out of his way not to agree with Bud on the no-interview position. He said instead that he left it up to the three of us. He understands some of Bud's in-court failures and mentioned a couple.

It for these and anticipated future reasons that I took all the time the enclosures represent. And for exploiting the certainty that the mail is still being intercepted. Let them get a few messages. I'll be taking up the cudgels with Haile tonight or tomorrow and laying a basis for going farther later.

Being a scoundrel is the only way Bud can scratch the prickling and itching of his conscience. He knows he was unprepared and hasn't met his obligations and knows that he both chickened out and fucked up. He could have ended the case in Memphis and feared the effort on a personal basis and the effect in Establishmentarian terms. He is not a boat-rocker, only a guilty liberal without courage. I think he also feared failure. But somehow Jim and I will sweat it out and through. I do expect more dirty works from the State.

If Playboy gets upset and Jim McKinley does a live story it may help some.

Part of the unease is that there is this renewed interest in the assassinations, the word being that 10 Congressmen will introduce resolutions, and I've heard from not one. This tells me that they are dealing only with nuts or at best those who are familiar with the initial writings only. The Times and Post attentio, if not a look into the field by staffers, should have been more than enough.

So, we draw to the end of a year with much accomplishment but not real success. If there were two Jim's I'd feel better and easier because we have much lined up, much past due, some cases where the statute may have run that he has let go to do this Ray work. We'll be filing money-damage suits over my FOI treatment and perhaps other matters. I've started new paths to new information under the law. As you and Martin say, I'm not winning popularity contests. But then there is a new year coming for that!

Best,

