

JAN 22 1975

Dear Jim,

1/22/75

Despite the astounding proof of the mobility of our society reflected in the number of returns, the mailing is a good financial success. This is to say that on paid sales of WW IV to date we have an income of about \$300 over all costs. While I'd expected the sales to taper off by now, the fact is that day before yesterday I had about 18 packages to make. Fewer yesterday. This means that we have paid off at least 25% of what Jim borrowed, maybe 1/3. I'm not trying to keep up. When there is enough money in the special account, Lil sends the bank a check.

This also has meant a surprising number of sales for the other works, usually higher than for the new one! In some cases it has to include people who are getting a new set of all the works. However, with the money I still owe, the only book that represents actual income is Frame-Up. When we sold about 10 in the previous two weeks I got an old but good am/fm portable fixed and keep it in my office for early-morning music that will not waken Lil. And with Lil working I have to do the papers. Thus on Monday, between getting the orders ready to mail and just clipping the whole day went. So, I'm back on the old schedule, somewhat rested from the longer nights I decided on when I returned from Memphis so tired in early November. One of the delights is the accidental discovery of an old-time jazz program beginning 5:30 a.m. on the American University station, which has a good signal here. Right now I'm listening to what sounds like The Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street, if you remember the Henry "Hot Lip" Levine who used to play for Dinah Shore when she was strating. Only it is better, the real old-time New Orleans jazz. The tootling as of this minute may be Bechet.

One of the sacrifices I felt I had to make in all the time I worked in New Orleans was not taking in that great music. I did it only three times, each while working. All three times interviews. One at Preservation Hall, once at a copy (the incident Thornley and Lifton misrepresented) and once at a bar that had a fine boogie-woogie combo. (Waif.) Twice I was tempted for the Olympias and funeral marches but I worked instead.

Anyway, these early mornings have enabled me to address what I might not have been able to otherwise. Sometimes I've been able to start only, so there may be jerkiness in what I've done. Other things may have been on my mind before I resumed.

One of these is the malpractise suit against the Williams firm over screwing us in the helicopter case. I've given Lesar a pretty free hand in it, but I've written him several long letters conveying my analysis and belief. I do not remember what if anything I've sent you on this. I did not want to dump just personal stuff on you but from the beginning it has been clear that it is not only personal.

After typing the enclosed the past two mornings I decided there is content you might want to know. Also that there could be some worthwhile feedback. So, when you have finished, I'd appreciate the return of the carbon. I think you will see the inherent irrationality of 1) the firm representing itself and 2) making an offer there was no possibility of our accepting. Even if they do not carry malpractise insurance. I don't think it makes sense for them even if there is never a story in any paper.

There is an Agency connection, as you will see. And of the ellipsis I can remember, the second screwed client is the Democrats, over Watergate. There is also a passing comment about Jim's not having written a paragraph in a letter to the AG. A long time ago I sent him a draft of what I would write and he wanted to do it himself, but he hadn't gotten to it until recently and then omitted that graf, which it is now clear was wrong. It has to do with my allegation to Mitchell in early 1969 of FBI improprieties about and with me. Hoover never responded. I brought it up again several times thereafter, without response. The Kessler anti-FBI stories - which amount to a defense of the CIA \* give it pertinence.

I'm not at all resentful that Jim made this mistake. He has also made others, as who doesn't? But with him they are part of his necessary education, not copping out, as they were with Bud. I discussed both with him yesterday. He will now write the letter as my lawyer and he will make the motions Bud didn't at the first appropriate moment after the judge hands down his decision. The thinking is that each new motion delays the decision.

If the papers are not heavy today and there are not as many orders as I'd like I'll probably be getting to other things that may interest you. I've finished Hunt's book and still believe that at some point you will want to read it. But I haven't yet read the Colby statement. Or Helms'. There is enough snow on the ground and I have enough firewood stacked and covered to keep me in the house. Best,

400