

JAN 7 1976

Dear JL (MR, DW),

1/6/76

This has been one of those interrupted days so I've been spending it catching up on odds and ends. One of them, typing notes on an Anson and a Lane broadcast Jim White sent me with a perceptive comment on Anson (he's trying to appear the conservative) started me to thinking.

On such things as Bud's indecency we tend to get carried away with perfectly natural, human and proper emotions. But there are, as I think you'll recall from the past, times when I've talked about this, inseparable considerations primarily that each one of these personal adventures and devious self-promotions hurts real work, which those types, the best of them, never do. The others are always hurting. So, you will find as I long ago concluded, that there comes a time when there has to be open opposition or we defeat our impersonal objectives. This is to say that our personal rights and our other than personal work coincide exactly and that the pursuit of one is the advancement of the other. I could develop this more but think it isn't necessary.

Too many things are coming together. It is immaterial that the interview with Bud was a year or more ~~ago~~ ago. Or that when Paul phoned Bud he knew it. Or that when Bud did this wretched thing it was at the time he was killing the decent possibilities with Playboy, although that has a special relevance as it relates to Bud and the overall problem.

Over the years I have come to develop a feeling about and a confidence in what might be called my instincts. I think they are created by the end product of much thought over a long period of time and that some of it is below the level of consciousness. Thus I saw what had to be tried at NYU and made the effort. It is not the coinciding illness that made it impossible to carry that further. It was that if I did I'd be able to do nothing else, so the time was not right and I preserved silence except when there was no real choice.

These are all devious people, including the nuts. It is not necessary to wonder if any one is a government agent because it makes little or no difference. What results is what counts. What to now has resulted is what I forecast in the April speech. Only there is more and in the course of thinking in part about something I'd forgotten that I got from Howard yesterday and being reminded of the things Anson says I am also reminded of what I told you long ago, that I have the evidence that Hoover was preparing for today before the Commission really got started. I am not prepared to use it now and do want to hold it for Agent Oswald. The reason is that to use it now would be to misuse it. I have much more to fit with both and as best I can I am ^{working} ~~marking~~ on both, with their ramifications. If we were physically close together, particularly with a mature mind like Jim White's and his wife's, I think merely talking this through with what each could be triggered into thinking could result in much more. But we are not and it is impossible for me to spell it all out now or in writing now.

There is ~~safer~~ what has to be one of the largest disinformation operations ~~at~~ ever. I believe it began with CA2052-73 once ~~was~~ Bud wrecked us on 2301-76, the original spectro suit. That he did this as he did and that he behaved as he did with all aspects of the King case are what trouble me most about him. I can think of explanations and temporarily accept them but they fail to satisfy me. We could and should have won 2301. Whatever the reason, Bud caused us not to. He is more able than he then was in court and he agreed to take the course that was necessary only at each step to do otherwise, unilaterally. From 2052-73 on the game was different. As JL then noted, it is the first time ^{the} ~~ey~~ ~~whes~~ ~~hed~~ ~~out~~ their big gun, Rankin. Once we did him in they were desperate. I think now as I did partially then their decision was to avoid risking the court of appeals and Baselton. We got back into the same league with 75-226, where they ran what may yet turn out to be incredible rinks. Much rests on this and the court of appeals because if it decides to make an issue of the perjury alone it can break everything apart.

They have to be hung up on Post Mortem. And they have to be aware of the need to do what can be done to diminish its impact and something about me. They can't not be aware of the potential of 75-1996, the King stuff, and they've made great efforts with the Time and CBS. I feel I've been able to nullify some and that in the end it can be good for us.

the quest

So, what can they do? Killing in itself would not now accomplish "their" ends and could be quite counterproductive.

Perhaps it is easiest to compare this wit news management.

"They" don't dare let things just develop. There is too great a risk that despite the ignorance of the Lanes, Buds, ALBs and others Congress can come on something. That is too great a risk to run. It was better to do what was done, feed the Congress tidbits and get it running in all the wrong directions, with all this motley gang of pot-boilers and self-seekers helping no end. That could be figured and I'm sure was.

What do the disclosures of Hoover and King come to? Nothing new except the hope to inspire suicide and a big lie that got everyone off the track. These would have come out in time anyway, so a false spur was a good method. To now it has worked. There simply was no such story on him pressuring King to switch and there was no basis for it.

There never was any Hosty secret but they made one out of it in a situation for which there was no resolution but a meaningless series of headlines that led to nothing. Well, it did lead to more hiding, of the truth. But that also has to await my being able to address it.

Meanwhile, all the Lane/Bud/CGI whoring around made this ploy work even better.

Nobody has his eye on the ball in ~~REDACTED~~ Congress.

We have limited means and no real help. What is open to us overloads JL and me both, use of the courts. (This I decided before this newest rot to force Lane's hand. I did it by taking him up on his threat, never given to me, to sue. I wrote him a letter that is more than he needs. I think that where he has been talking about his board suing me we may in time want to sue him and CGI, meaning its entire board, for what he has done. The straight commercial aspects JL has mentioned. This makes getting any clipping, any tape, extremely important. A half-dozen like JDW sent from KGO would be enough. (JL has had no comment on that heavy letter.)

There is also the FOIA suits on which there also is no help. They do have real potential, depending on the judge, our limitations, our ability to surmount them, and any mistakes of omission or commission that we make.

Anson/Bantam are different, and JDW's comment on Anson's taking the pose of being the conservative is the key to this. It is more than that. He and Bantam, although the book seems to be bombing, have been able to make a big thing of him. His exposure has been enormous. And what does he boil down to except the falsity that the Mafia did it and the repetition of a little of what is already out on the CIA: nobody in the government had the intention of deceiving people. He specified WC, FBI, CIA. He is as wrong as anyone can be on any one and all collectively, but that is receiving enormous attention. I have written earlier that Bantam's specials are usually what the government wants out. This is not only not an exception: it is a prime example.

While all those with means are doing the other side of the same job. Lane and Bud with the Congressional operation in particular.

The real current problem is what JL and I can do. It is so little that small help is important. I propose to wait a while to give Bud and his partner a chance to respond, if they do, to some tough letters I have written. Then I'll talk to JL before I do anything. One thing I have in the back of the mind that I may abandon, depending on timing and circumstances, would be a press conference, if it could have congressional sponsorship, on how the Congress has been had. This would mean a direct confrontation where as of now I think the odds are against it.

I think the best shot now is with King because there are no others except overt nuts who can do anything. If Bud does I'll ruin him forever and I don't think he'd dare do or say a thing. This means two things: how C.A.75-1996 develops and what can be done when Congress returns.

Even then it will be anything but easy, will require extreme diplomacy, and the result is not certain. Experience with the Absug people tends to discourage except by the motivating of others than those who have had any leading role in any of this.

I have made other overtures. I'm to hear from one by the end of the week.

As I see it, it now and for the immediate future will be impossible to do anything about the Bug and Lanes et al except in court ~~for the immediate future~~.

But this is not true of King and that the FBI would seem to take the lead in defaming Hoover on this is, I think, an indication of their awareness.

If we go back over the recent past we will find a series of such initiatives by the executive agencies each keyed in with something like what could happen in one of our suits or what could be expected from a defector from the agencies, etc.

I'm not going into the successes of other operations, like the Rockefeller Commission and keeping grease in front of the Church committee. The executive agencies have succeeded. Berlin let quite a bit out in Memphis when, privately, at dinner, he told me how cooperative the CIA was, so cooperative he didn't have to investigate it. They merely delivered everything Berlin et al would have thought of. And how Wecht, Gregory et al were cooperative and how with the limited mandate of that Commission there were simple questions to be answered by all if they so chose but all the rest was irrelevant to that mandate. True. These crazies always do the other side's work.

One of the real problems is how I can get to be able to do more, particularly now with my added limitations. JL knows of a side project I have. If it is successful it may be able to provide help I need and would have to be able to hire. However, depending on this is not wise. Yet without it I'm quite limited in what I can do, especially now that Lil's regular work has commenced and runs through mid-April.

If a real schedule is worked out for ER beginning in March that can do much good. Other than that and plain luck and the improbable, real attention to Post Mortem, or a windfall in one of the suits, it then becomes necessary for me to find time to put together what can attract attention and have some impact, meaning Agent Oswald has to be a commercial book.

I am arranging, not really profitably, for commercial distribution of WW IV and PA. I had the callback on it yesterday and samples of the books and covers went off today. When I can reprint the earlier ones, they'll be included. Among what this means is getting from Gooden some pictures he has promised to add to some for special reasons and some help I can probably arrange in getting the originals of official pictures I use in them. In time this can have some impact.

Meanwhile, what can be of help is any clipping or tape on any of these people, especially Anson but including the entire OCI bunch. In appearances that boils down to Lane, who has it rigged that way.

And if anyone knows of an inexpensive system for storing cassettes that can be bought, I sure need something like this.

I've done this, for whatever it is worth, while awaiting a callback from a county lawyer that was supposed to have followed a call after which I began writing this.

I am not ruling out an open fight against heavy odds on the pot-boilers who to now have made a record of no accomplishment but whose Congressional people may be satisfied with the public attention they have received. But if that succeeds it means still another whitewash so the tangle may become necessary, regardless of how it ends.

Hastily,