

DEC 28 1973

Harold Weisberg Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21704
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Dear James,

Jim called me this morning after having heard or read about a letter you wrote Bud.

I was away much of the day. When I got home after dark, he phoned me again because he had been in Bud's office and there were calls from down there coming in for Bud, who was not there, and Jim didn't know anything about what those callers were asking about. Generally speaking that is not a good kind of situation and under the circumstances it could easily be even less good.

So, I know very little, not enough to really say anything about, but enough to be concerned that you may get hurt in all of what seems to be going on. It is because I am very concerned that you are going to be damaged and because there is always the possibility of even more damage that I write. I want you to be aware of this.

I was going in to Washington tomorrow on other matters, but I'll see Jim first thing, on the chance that I can be of any use. Perhaps he will know more by then.

One of the things that gives me concern is timing. Whatever you wanted, and I don't really understand what it is, it seems to me would have been no less likely to be possible after the decision from the sixth circuit. If there is any reason why whatever this is should not have awaited that decision, I can't imagine what it is. Nor can I see how this can help in any way with that, while I can see that it might do other than help. When there are close calls, little things can shift the balance.

Another thing that has long worried me you know about. I am seriously concerned about the effects of your long isolation. Aside from the fact that this is a way of working on a man, and a very effective way, there is too much that you have no way of knowing.

Long ago a Washington reporter who is a friend of mine called me to ask some questions about an offer made to one of his then associates. Because his paper knew of his relationship with me, he was asked to do the checking. What he told me gave me much to worry about. I told Bud or Jim or both and when one of them was down to see you they mentioned it to you and you said there was nothing to it. Now this just is not possible. Maybe you knew nothing about this, but I know that man and I know that what he was asking me about not only had to be true or he would not have asked me but I am sure he had it in writing. The way these things work, the person addressed had no authority and had to take it up with those who did have the authority. It is good that these people are of high standards because what they were sent could be very dangerous if it got into the wrong hands. As you know, I made no effort to check with you about it directly. But when Jim or Bud spoke to you, if they did not tell you it was ~~important~~ what I had told them, I'm telling you now. I am no less worried about that now than I was then. I also felt that if it had been desired that I know about it I would not have been kept uninformed about it. Directly, that is. However, I did ask myself why I was not consulted and why others were not.

If I don't know what is up or what is behind it, I can make some guesses. If you think anyone here has been engaged in anything at all behind your back you are quite wrong. And if anyone has told you this, you had better be asking yourself questions about them.

I tell you again that I have enough to walk you a dozen ways, aside from what you know. If you don't want to walk, that is your affair. I would think you would want to. Jim is aware of this evidence and evaluates it as I do. I hate to think that the chances of ~~finding~~ ^{finding} it might now be reduced. I have it duplicated out of my possession. Neither Bud nor Jim has it. And I think you realize that this is my own work, without help where I might have expected it.

You have appeared not to share my concern about what could happen to you. I still have the same concern and I have no knowledge of anything that has happened that I think can reasonably reduce the possibilities I see. What I heard about long ago increases this concern, whether it is true or false.

That you are impatient is understandable. Anybody would be. Recently I had occasion to write Jim. I told him it is amazing that you have held up. I sure hope I wasn't a little premature!

There is much crazy stuff going on. One of the newer ones is a self-seeking nut in Chicago who says everybody else is a CIA agent. Everybody except him. If he isn't one, they're getting free help. The last I heard he had added Bud and me to his list. If anyone is sending you this kind of garbage and you ate it, you'll get a real bellyache.

Because I don't know I can only guess.

If whatever is afoot hurts you, I'm sorry.

You have to have some idea of the tremendous amount of work Jim and I put into your habeas corpus. I know what you think of it. If we could do that for you and ask nothing in return and you could not trust either of us enough to at least check with us, then I'm even more sorry because with this kind of procedure you are doomed.

Some of my expenses that have been paid, Bud paid. I think I told you this. If he had not, there would have been that much less I would have been able to do, particularly on your habeas corpus, which he not only agreed to and signed but also worked over with Jim. If he was in any way working against your interest, that habeas corpus would have been impossible. Jim and I alone could not have done it. Nor would it have been filed, as you should realize if you stop to think.

For your sake, I do hope my fears turn out to be groundless.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg