

12/25/72

DEC 27 1972

Dear Jim,

It was no Xmas present to awaken you! My apologies and an explanation.

Things are always bad here, financially. We have just borrowed enough to keep things going, pay the bank, the plumber, the electric company, etc. and enough for groceries and the like until Lil's first if small check. 1/15. Then we got a very touching Xmas present, a \$20 check from Jim Lesar and his wife, who is a Chinese Griselda/doll. She make a good living as a hospital pathologist or radiologist Jim has next to no income. He worked for Bud free for a long time, then Bud started paying him \$165.00 a month to do Bud's work on the Ray case! And didn't pay him that disgraceful sum for last month of this before taking his large double-family to the Barbados for the holidays, leaving all emergencies (two so far) to Jim with me for backstopping and talking-over.

Jim and I have always gotten along well. Unlike most of the young interested in the assassinations, he does not resent older people and does not resent it when he is satisfied someone else is right in saying he is wrong. We have gone through many rough months on the Ray habeas corpus, having to work around Bud and with no funding, wasting great amounts of time because of Bud, with the result there were defects in his drafts which were nonetheless excellent from the first. You know the vigor with which I can pursue a point when vigor is needed or I think it is. We have gone through all these hassles without nager or rancor and a rather good end product has emerged. During all of this, and going back to this fall a year ago when I tried to get him to see that the Cyril ploy was not good and he was surrounded by nuts, he has gotten a new insight into Bud and company, including Cyril and his gang, has found me regularly right and never I-told-you-soing and the result is a better relationship with him. He feels more strongly against Bud than I do. I have no strong feeling, no hate at all, only sorrow. But he is bitter and can barely stand to be with Bud now, for he sees from his own experience exactly what I had been telling him and cautioning him about. So you can get a little perspective, Bud has done nothing in the case for which he will get full credit except make success impossible, and on every point without exception has been proven wrong already. Jim sees it. He lingered with the notion that at least Bud was a good lawyer. Maybe in some fields he may be, but Jim now sees he isn't and can't be a good trial lawyer. The one thing he did in the petition, the Memorandum on Points and Authorities, was so very bad that Jim delivered an ultimatum: I do it over and you get off my back about this and everything else or I quit now. He did a good one. All of this makes the very wealthy Bud resentful, as it did against me. And Jim now sees it.

So, when he knows that I have borrowed enough to tide me over the present emergencies and eat, for I did it the last day I saw him and left him early to do it, and he hasn't been paid his pittance for two months, and he and his wife give us \$20.00 that we know has to be her money, we know they mean it and wanted to give us a welcome and rare lift.

We decided we wanted to do two unnecessary things for a chance, just say hello to both of you and a Dallas friend who is in a bad period of her life. She hasn't answered for two days and it worries us. She is a right-winger of whom Lil and I are both fond. And she has been kind to me, unlike the ultra and ultrarich there.. Helpful. Our relationship is such that she has only copies of some of my files.

Meanwhile, our dentist, and old friend to whom we owe much, has also had a bad time of it personally. His wife, who has been milking the bank account for years, decided to go for broke and clean him out. She did, the odds being what they are in such cases, the one area in which society is not cruelly unfair to women. He is a little older than us, suddenly all alone, with all his assets now hers and some of her debts his, and children who, although of age, still in need of help, medical and educational. He is footing that and has borrowed to do it. His life is empty save for his work. We had him here for Thanksgiving and he is to come today. We expect him momentarily. You are the others we wanted to hello. So, figuring now that you are like most and see only one side of the moon, at after 9 a.m. your time you'd have exchanged your own greetings, we called.

I'm sorry to have started your days with an anti-present. The embarrassment took my tongue for a while. But it was good to say hello and to hear you sounding so good. May it always be so, on the sounding good, that is.

Our best to you both,

