

Meridian, Mississippi  
December 28, 1964

Hon. Warren Olney III  
Director  
Administrative Office of the  
United States Courts  
Supreme Court Building  
Washington, D. C. 20544

Dear Mr. Olney:

I have been out of town since December 22 and when I returned today I found your letter of December 21 regarding the televising of proceedings before me at the Naval Air Station on December 4, 1964.

I thought of course the proceedings would be held in one of the rooms in the Federal Building and had told reporters and photographers that there could be no pictures taken during the proceedings and no pictures taken anywhere on the second floor of this building. I was later requested by the FBI to hold the proceedings at the Naval Air Station and the United States Attorney called me to tell me that Judge William Harold Cox said it would be all right for me to go out there.

The FBI told me that there would be no reporters nor photographers allowed inside the Naval Air Station. When I arrived just in time for the hearing, photographers were all over the place. I did not know from whom they had obtained permission to have things all "set up". I announced that there could be no pictures taken during the proceedings. I am afraid I did not mention recording devices as such a thing as making a recording for television did not enter my mind. No Marshal was present. I

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had asked the FBI about that on the way out to the Station and was told that they were not going to ask the Marshal to go out.

I did not see what was on television and was shocked when I learned that it had been on as I thought my instructions were clearly understood. I am very sorry it happened as it did and if the proceedings had been held in the Federal Building the U.S. Marshal or one of his deputies would have been present and no pictures would have been taken and no recordings made.

No Government attorney was present at the arraignment on December 4. I discussed the matter later with Mr. Owen and as he said I did not know how much authority I had at the Naval Air Station. I wanted to have the room cleared of all paraphernalia but as stated before I did not know from whom the photographers had obtained permission to bring in such things. I did tell them no proceedings could be photographed. They were at my back and I was unaware that recordings were being made for television and pictures taken during the proceedings.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

  
Esther Carter  
U.S. Commissioner