

Dear Jim, Re: My earlier letter on 1996 of tonight

9/20/76

The anger and disgust will not go away. I wrapped a couple of large packages and sat and tried to think but I cannot, not really.

Once again I have been robbed of an enormous amount of entirely unpaid work done when I had to live at less than a minimum subsistence level and with other indecencies and abuses of which you are aware. I have also had most of this year stolen from me by what for all practical purposes is a corrupt government and a very decent judge who has become the accomplice of official corruption, for whatever reason. And don't you think for a minute that I am not right now capable of telling her that, too?

I wasn't this angry the night I had to lay Bud and Livingston out, the night before the first day of the Ray evidentiary hearing.

I don't know what I'm going to do. The one thing I do know is that I'm getting off of dead center.

If I do not have these indices and 25 volumes by the status call of the 30th I'll sit through it quietly, as you know I have through all in every case, and then ask to be heard. If I am not heard I do not know what I will do. I'll probably write a letter to Green and send copies to the papers and wire services.

I do want something done about these terrible bastards who have done what they have to me and it is her obligation to do it. She has had the obligation under the law to require proof of compliance. I have raised this question without answer or compliance. I cannot make her do her duty but I can sure as hell have my say on her failure. There just is no question of material false swearing and there just is no question that long before this at the very least my 4/15/75 request should have been complied with completely.

If there is not something I regard as substantial and meaningful accomplished by the end of the status call of the 30th I'll let you go ahead as you see fit. I will not again waste time I do not have any more in these charades.

In 1448, some time ago we discussed a motion for a summary judgement on the 5/19/64 transcript. I would like you to file it as soon as possible. If there is no action or if he rules against me I'll probably hold a press conference unless I can get enough attention to it by another means. If he doesn't like it I'll refer him to Manny Schorr's testimony last week. And Brandeis on who is the teacher of us all.

If we have any more of the old Pratt with that one, I'll probably do much the same thing, as publicly as I can. I don't give a damn about what these judges think about me or what I do. I've had it. There is no excuse for any of this and I do not propose to become an accomplice by silent acceptance of it.

On Pratt, I have not thought it through but as of now my disposition is not to go for depositions. However badly we may do I want to get it over with. The appeals court offered an option. I'm not going to go back into debt to pay for what will be stolen from me anyway. And I just am not going to stay bogged down in these things that mean so much less to me than those you have not been able to get around to. Your time means much more to me, and I'm certain to you, in these other things that hold the prospect of a meaningful return to you. Depositions will stall us past the beginning of the active life of the House committee. It would mean more to me to lose and give you some of the courtroom experience you need. That, at least, would do you some good. But I do not think we would lose. We'll break the whole thing apart with Frasier alone. I really do think that as soon as you file all the papers, you have to before it is too late we should move for immediate trial in 226. If Pratt can't give it to us, ask him to pass it to another judge. There can't be a worse one anyway. The law requires promptness. I've been waiting ten years plus. I want promptness. That's a joke, son, as the old radio shows had it. But I do not want to wait until Pratt is free. I do not think I should have to. Who knows when the Mandel trial will be over? And the appeals decision did address speed.

"Speedily," I think they said.

Well, that was two and a half months ago. We had a status call July 28. We filed interrogatories. We are past 30 days and have no response. I do not want to go into the 10/1 status call - and Pratt did try to set it for a month later - without these responses in hand.

If you have not heard from Ryan by Friday I'd like you to call him and ask for a date not later than next ~~week~~ Tuesday for me to have the responses in my hand. That will leave me but a single day, assuming I have nothing else to do that day, to go over them before the status call. I do want at least one day. In fact, I'd like you to phone him as soon as you get this. I wrote him. He has not responded. I don't give a damn about him or Pratt. If he can't get them to me within 48 hours after you call him I'd like you to move for contempt. Or something. Just so we don't sit and wait more. I'm not a thumb twiddler.

We've got to learn on these bastards. There is no excuse for this delay. Those are not difficult interrogatories to answer. There simply is no older case.

I meant learn, but learn, too.

There is a great importance to us and to the damages for which we can ask in the House ~~committee~~ committee. Without this stonewalling, with compliance under the law, the literary potential in each case was enormous.

And I don't have forever any more, friend.

I do want to get back to writing. I do want to be able to have some continuity in it. I do want to finish the draft of this new thing book even though I haven't any hope of being able to do anything with it now. I had written to where I now am in April. That was a full year after my 4/15/75 request and a year after the compliance required by the law. This, of course, is where I began: Green's abdications of her responsibilities, including to me.

(She is also very sharp. I find myself wondering if she had an ambition to go up to the appeals court, at least. I do think she'd be great on the Supreme Court. I find nothing wrong with such an ambition. I just don't want to pay for it any more.)

The bag we are in is only paper. Let us blast our way out of it.

Now?