

Dear Jim,

1/7/85

Lil finished retyping the draft of the petition this morning, meaning retyped my draft. I'd expect to read it and make some changes so she hadn't corrected the typos, which were few. But she's been virtually sleepless the past two night from back and leg pain and headaches so, as I read it, I decided that it can go as it is, without what I could see to do with it as I read it. I corrected a few typos by hand, she'll type in a few small words she skipped, and she is retyping the pages with footnotes. She'd typed them separate so she could make each page run 9 1/2 because I feared having to cut. But most of the 15th page is blank. So, I'm using the retyped draft as the final petition and there is now a collating machine available where they can also xerox the cover. So with luck I'll have it done tomorrow and will mail it from home Wednesday. Or from the post office if necessary.

I've kept you uninformed in your interest, except for the Swiftie, which I thought you'd enjoy, and I think you ought not do anything that might compromise you, but if telling me what you think doesn't I'd like to know.

The one thing that tends to scare me is that I may have forgotten something more important than what I included, and this comes from my having overlooked the paperclip I'd put on the King gaffe and even forgotten that I'd marked it. That I should not have forgotten, even without having marked it!

I did this off the top, without even looking at what I'd drafted before I knew of the 15-page limitation.

I probably won't write Lynch, just send him a copy. I'm not putting covers on all of them that I'll have made. I'll be sending a few to reporters. Do you think I should to Burnham? I've had no contact with him. I do have Rick Smith in mind, George and Les Whitten and a few others.

If I do write Lynch I'll enclose a carbon so you'll know. I can think of reasons why I should.

While I can say I've given it much or deep thought, I have thought a bit about Smith's failure to make a finding of fact and the appeals court's invention of one when it cannot make any at all but must remand for one.

No due process? Constitutional questions? Can I raise these questions? In Maryland, with local or federal courts, which are in a different district?

Another reason I'm going ahead, and I'm writing this while Lil is doing a few things, like the two covering submission pages, is because last Thursday I got up with a sore spot in the throat. While that passed off since then, without any fever, I've been bring junk up from the chest and nightly coughing to bring it up interferes with sleep. I remember only too well that when this happened it is time last year or the year before it lingered and returned, each time with complications, for about six months and made me even weaker. In fact I'm not back to the energy level of before then. So I just want to get it done in order that it be done if I do get sick again.

Regular checkup with the dermatologist today. He'd removed one cancerous growth from my right ear and has been burning others off regularly. Today he asked me, "Well, how many do you have for me today?" I didn't keep count, but he cut one small one off my face and burned several dozen other small ones off the face, ears, neck and hands. No indication of any malignancies.

Best,