

Dear Howard,

1/17/78

I'm glad that Jim phoned you and that he told me because I've been turning an idea over in my mind for longer than beginning yesterday. I can save longer explanations now that I know you have not lined up a permanent job.

We are dealing with basically irrational or timid people in our FOIA cases. In the King case both. The FBI really is irrational in what it is continuing to try to pull. I believe those in Civil are intimidated by the FBI.

However, I believe that the Civil people may have begun a hard learning process in 77-2155 and I'm sure they are unhappy over what happened to them. They probably know more than we about some aspects of this but they know what we know, that Jim whipped a whole team they have put together against me. They thus have a new aspect of learning, that they spent more than it would have cost to comply and may have that to answer for and still lost and have to comply. Now they have the added problem of the better position in which we are and the news attention which will come to the attention of those higher up.

The King case gives them special problems. It also holds certain plus possibilities for them. I've made a couple of hints and maybe Jim has. Besides his straightforward letter to Bell after the OPR report came out.

If we can get them to deal reasonably with us and to come to the point where they will not provide the FBI's paws for the chestnuts I anticipate going a bit farther and offering help they may not realize they need on King. This would entail putting all I have together, in writing. I would do it in the form of a book but if they would have an interest that would extend to an assistant on the project I would propose you as that assistant. But I would not propose this if you were not interested.

You would also be coauthor with half interest in the book. It can and under any circumstances will be more definitive than anything yet and it will come from an unprecedented riches in sources.

To give you some of an understanding it would be like a defense counsel in a frame-up case having all of the files of the prosecution. I don't mean their content. I mean substantially all in copies.

There is a second and equally unprecedented book in the domestic intelligence activities. I doubt there would be any DJ interest in this because I do not see any benefit to them. There is a distinct benefit in facing the King realities and then cleaning up as best they can.

Jim thinks this can move faster than I do. But let us assume he is correct. Would you please let me know yes, no or maybe?

Best,