Ray habeas corpus - journal 8/25/72

Those who know me seem to think I'm usually irrascible and short-fused without cause. If the more recent examples of what well be taken this way (except, I think, for the without cause part) is the enormous and endless waste of my time in doing what the lawyers should be doing and what a non-lawyer ought not have to. My correspondence under habeas corpus will hold most of the cases in point. They seem, looking back over all the work that couldn't get done because of them, to have taken an enormous amount of time. If any one of which I made a strong point has been rejected by the lawyers, it is unknown to me. I suggest this is more commentary on them than on me for I think not one not obvious and not essential to a real job in presenting the strong case that can be.

Today the mail was late, coming just before I had to leave for near Washington. It finally brought-3rd class-the so-called investigative file from the public defenders' office. There was no time to examine it before leaving.

So, I called Jim Lesar and asked him if he needed this before getting to the ad denda and at this point he does not. I asked him to give me a couple of days notice and I'd do the analysis that can be done, I think with ease (again, the function of the lawyers). I asked he argee with my points and position on this and would include the briefest possible mention of it in the petition propers, with the support another appendix, and he said he did, that it was strong and should be ibcluded. In the fourth draft! Yet it is relevant to most things in the first draft.

More than a year ago I have said that certain letters should be written, including to Foreman, Hanes, Huie, Frank, McMillan, Michael Eugene, the prosecution, etc. Finally I made an issue of it and Jim started doing it. (This should not have had to be his decision of responsibility). He is delighted with the Foreman response, which he describes as "vintage Foreman". I suspect Foreman will have hooked himself and helped make our case not from ignorance but from arrogance. I'll see when I get the letter. The first one having worked, Jim has prepared others, one being ready for Bud's signature. It is to Huie. Now that it is too late. Huie offered me everything he had six months before F-U was out and Bud wouldn't send me for it. I didn't need it for my completed work, but it was vital to the defense.

Organized, responsible people and those not eaten by ambition they lack the capacity to fill would have sat down and discussed this whole thing, the drafter(s) making notes while it was chewed over, and the prospects are that it would all have been done long before this and with so much less work and needless emotional tearing. But even the collection of good affidavits in support had to be on my initiative and my work. They were going to draft affidavits for the family to sign based only on what they remembered of what they had read. I waited until a TV show paid most of my expenses and interviewed all on tape, getting from them things we didn't know, among these being the more important parts of the affidavits.

If this were but one case, an isolated one, I believe dispassionate consideration of all this waste could be considered justification for the shortening of even a long-leashed temper. But when it is added to an unending succession of such things, I believe one has to be desirous of doing more work than a man can reasonably expect of himself and then have all this dumped on him in addition to begin to understand how one feels and how one is impelled to try to take steps to either eliminate or reduce the stupidities of such ineffeciency and waste. A high school debating team should be able to understand the proper approach in such matters. Why not lawyers then?