1/2/73

Dear Bud,

Before getting to my main purpose in writing, let me update you on Ray before you leave to see him.

Prior to the appearance of anything in the papers, where there was wind of what was up, I wrote him. This was the first time in months. I knew what Jerry was up to and when Jimmy would not do anything about it, I just stopped writing both. Having already arranged to bring Jerry and Larry together and having backgrounded Larry well enough, I picked a fight with Jerry, which made detachment easy. One of the things I had hoped to accomplish by this fight was to be the lightening rod, to take all the Ray heat for all of us. Perhaps to a degree it worked, but not enough.

This reminds me that last night you were going to tell me what Bob thinks Jimmy thinks of you, Jim and me but never got around to it. I should like to know and in particular I would like to know about me because somethimes it is necessary to move fast. As recently.

You probably are not aware of it, but I have psent much time building Jimmy's confidence in you Much time begins at the very beginning, what sees like so many years ago now. From the beginning I felt this was essential because of the probable Stoner-Fields influence. So, when I wrote him several weeks ago to assure him that you were not pressuring him to turn state's evidence, based on what he knows to be the record between him and me, which may well be different than what he says, I believe it influenced him. Especially if Bob followed it up. I sent Jim a copy, as I do of everything, so your files will have it. And I did the same thing thursday plus adding encouragement to see Paul and Larry and preferably in your presence. I got this letter written and mailed early a.m.

(I called Paul and he has not returned the call. I did speak to Larry, whose editor has cooled.)

Larry confirms my suspicion that Jerry has been badmouthing you. I called him when we got home from dinner. Jerry's ostensible reason is that you killed his efforts to sell what he has just been giving out. That may figure in it but I suspect it is the Stoner et al reason, his own racism. If I am not suggesting that you do anything about this, I think you should be aware of it because to the best of my knowledge you were not part of it. To the best of my knowledge their game failed because of what they just don't recognize, the whole things was at best shakey and to all reasonable people inherently incredible. Moreover, if they really planned something like this, they should have done it through me and if they didn't, they should have realized that I would be checked with, as I was. And I said that I believe and believe there is no question about the proof, Jimmy was not part of a conscious conspiracy to kill King and that I can prove he was not at the scene of the crime. Jerry's proposal was not that Jimmy would name those with whom he had been involved criminally but that he would name co-conspirators in the murder. This was as crazy an approach as anything can be. It had to fail. This line, whatever its origin, was in the first stuff Jerry put out recently. The CDN stories had to be rewritten.

If you get Jimmy to talk about any of the stuff in his writ, please tape it so Jim and I can go over it immediately and carefully.

This whole insane business can be a turning point if we take the initiative, as we always should have (excet with regard to the pending sixth-circuit decision) from now on. What I have from Foreman is onoy part of it.

My immediate purpose in writing is about the money for the books sold at Georgetown. I am, of course, sorry that your people ran off with the money. But we go from one emergency and need to another. Now, at the worst times of the year for her, Lil's old adding machine, which I bought second hand years ago, has conzked out. I have had to order a modern replacement and we need this money to pay for it. I do hope you will send me a check as soon as possible because I do not want to have to borrow to make this payment and there are no