

Dear Jim,

5/19/75

Peter Irons, who is working on the Hiss case, was here today. We had a pretty good chance to talk, I made some very strong recommendations, and I do feel that if he follows them and his lawyer is in agreement the case can now break apart in court. Much will depend on his lawyer's willingness to heed a non-lawyer. Or unwillingness to take needless offense.

I have recommended an immediate combination approach. For the first time, with a battery of buckshot. The thing is ready for it with what I saw and I think he now sees. They have been nasty again, plus careless plus confused plus self-deceived (because the Shattuck-Weinstein operation is as childish and timid and wrong-headed as I told you long ago).

He went over the Weinstein stuff. (The FBI thinks Weinstein is a great, cooperative guy, too!) He saw what Weinstein did not understand. I almost went through the ceiling when I saw it.

He blundered into something they did not recognize when he was looking.

And there were several things I was able to give him plus a concept of the package plus a way of doing it.

They have let the time on his appeal run without even acknowledging it. I told him to file the complaint as soon as court opens in the a.m. He said his lawyer had one drawn. Only the wrong one, in anticipation of rejection. I told him to ask for everything beginning with a summary judgement and punishment of those who failed, the works, and to be ready to make a statement on the contemptuousness of the whole thing.

On the way back I suggested a series of letters for him to draft and some thing of which he did not know to ask for and of whom.

I urged him to get these letters off tomorrow, to let the government know he is using a blunderbus bit to say nothing now in public except about his appeal. I believe his letters will really cause consternation, will leave the government in a very difficult position, and will put Peter in a position to break the case in court whichever way the government goes.

I suggested one two-part request of the FBI which will have them looking for new walls to climb unless they want the case to come apart now.

He can allege and make a reasonable case for a deliberate frame and I've told him how to get the proof of who done it, that is, the part the FBI did not do.

It happens I was also able to refer him to a number of people who may or may not have answers and may or may not be willing.

I also suggested a former spook now old enough to be concerned about the reputation with which he goes to his reward and how to lean on him. I hope he includes this in the package for I forget to ask him to. I merely said all but he can take this to mean all in the government. Spook isn't any more. High one.

He did not know of other requests he could make so I suggested them, not with the certainty they will yield what he wants but as I did not tell him, with a fair chance the feds will be quite unhappy not knowing his exact purposes.

We'll have to see. I think it was a half-day well spent. Even blocking the bus so it could not leave without him. I merely stopped the car as it was leaving the station in a way to make departure impossible. Bus driver was good sport. It was that close, we talked that long.

He is quite able and for a scholarly unusually open-minded and practical in his ways.

With luck it is possible.

Best,