

3/10/69

Dear Lou,

I have just read a very dishonest book. Ordinarily, about such a book, I'd never write you. However, I think it may be important that you be aware of some of its contents, therefore I do. The importance would be if Turner is still in touch with Jim, still has any influence on his thinking or decisions, for I believe that of those things of which I know, without exception, his has been a very bad influence.

The book is by Harry and Bonero Overstreet. It is called "The FBI in Our Open Society". It has several earlier references to Turner and an entire chapter on him. You should be able to get the book from the library. I recommend against buying it. Xeroxing that chapter will take little time. I think also, that you should have it on hand in case he starts trying to misdirect Jim again. If you do, please Xerox a set for me and when and as I can I'll try and check it out. I had the book loaned to me by someone who thought I should read it and had to return it. Besides, my machine, as I told you, is on the blink.

I want to try and be fair to Turner, so I warn you again about the dishonesty of the book. I believe its basic research was by the FBI, that it is selective in what it uses and what it omits. Therefore, I do not tell you that what it says about Turner has to be true. It could all be true and still give you the wrong impression. However, I believe that while I may not be able to detect all the dishonesties, I could detect enough. I am inclined to believe that the basis of what it says about him is probably dependable.

It will not take you long to read it and you can then decide for yourself whether to call it to Jim's attention. I am of the opinion you should.

I continue to worry about his over-reactions. He has difficulty playing anything cool. Now I think he should. I have done some shows in person and by phone and most of these people who reacted are still with us. The audience was excellent, not defeatist. Some were, and it will be an easy matter to turn the rest off. I find that by taking the initiative, by going into the positive aspects of the trial amid the dishonesties the impact was excellent, including on the moderators. If I knew more I could do better. I interpret the silence to mean that the word has been given. So be it, then. I am only too well aware of the self-destructive instincts. However, I do suggest that I should be backgrounded, and for this reason and purpose I see no compelling reason not to use the phone. The hell with them, let the other side know. I have learned but I have never been able to persuade Jim that this has certain advantages we should exploit....One of the things I should like to know, minor as it is, because I could use it effectively, is the names of the federal attorneys present during the trial....Remember, I am in contact with some on "the other side", including one new one....And I have an enormous amount of information totally unknown to you people with which many things could fit. I am also in a friendly relationship that continues with someone in N.O., who is of great influence. There are others with whom I could be but have not been because there is too much I do not know about the local situation, and I'll do nothing rather than do the wrong thing.

Best regards,