Dear Jim, attached second letter to Sprague 11/6/76

If you do not need counsel I do. I think we both do. When we get back would you care to speak to Morgan? Or anyone else you chose?

You will note that I have asked Sprague to arrange for a quorum of the committee and a quorum of the black Members to hear me as soon as convenient after 11/18 and that hearing. I do want the black Members there.

If I hear nothing from him or if he refuses then I think I need to hold a press conference and put him in the FBI's bed.

I'm not concerned about being able to prepare for this testimony although I think it would be better to outline what I want to say in advance.

It is, I am certain, necessary to take an initiative. Not to wait, not to let them change the turf on which we contend or the issues.

If it should come to pass that they hear us both, I strongly encourage you to restrict yourself to a forceful presentation as and as limited to Ray's counsel by fiat of the sixth circuit. Keep yourself professionally in the clear. These characters have contrived a situation in which you are Mr. Establishment& if you stick to the orthodox position of lawyer to the accused. How crazy it all is boggles.

I was paying to close attention to what you said when you phoned to be making suggestions. Afterward I was sorry I did not suggest that you cue Bud in. If you have not by the time I'm there then when we get back I think you should as fast as possible. Bot only because of what this can mean to him personally but more to what it can mean to Departing Downing. I mean this even if Bud is the cause of the snide cracks you've perceived in the form of questions.

These power-mad irresponsibles have created a situation for you that you could not have created for yourself. Fantastic! You are, thanks to their excesses, in a no-lose slot. Just stick to the Constitutions, the canons and the lawyer's obligations. (Why do you think I've demanded a black quorum?)

I'll be giving you my best carbon. The reason is we may be needing copies. I have in mind that maybe we'll want Kim and Lila to take copies made from it around. I'm sure they will be willing.

I'll be taking a copy to give to Jerry. He can send it to Jimmy.

Meanwhile, let us not worry about the odds. Let us instead be grateful for the stupidities and the showing of the Sprague hand this soon.

Considering all the aspects and the showings of colors we are fortunate it comes so early, so clearly and where we could not have improved if we had made the selection.

I do not expect Sprague to arrange a hearing. If he does I am without any concern or apprehension. If Morgan can't or won't don't worry. Instead let us consider me then taking the initiative in the other ways that are possible. If Sprague won't tango with us I'm willing to tangle with him. Even if the Ms Phila. ACLU does not chime in "we told you so."(If you speak to Morgan do not forget this.)

For us these stupidities have created the closest possible to a dream situation.

They have also given Bud a few problems. I think he should be made fully and completely aware of all of this and as soon as possible.

If it had to happen it could not have happened at a better time or on better issues. We have few blessings. Let us appreciate them while we count them.

Best,