Lega

12/22/73

When you phoned from the airport last night we were thoroughly drifted in. We had so bad a storm in midafternoon I rushed the Balt. News-American reporter out, broke a track out with my smaller car, and kept going, fearing to stop, and not knowing whether, assuming I could get home, I'd be able to get into a lane he was blocking! He made it, pretty good for a city boy, ad despite Lil's involuntary efforts to deter, we got all the way in and made it into the carport. I was still a little edgy when you phoned hence not as alert as I might have been. Otherwise I'd have suggested still another possibility in the report that Bud got, that James is to be shifted to the Atlanta federal prison. It came to me as soon as I started telling Lil. Remember, they never dropped the conspiracy indictment in Birmingham and I got Bud to demand immediate trial, so they dropped it? There always has been the possibility of federal indictment and this need not be limited to what was already charged. I think it more likely if they have word that we have won the habeas corpus in the 6th circuit. I don't think that with a different administration the reluctance to let Jimmie come to trial is changed. No point in premature exploration of the possibilities in the charges. I know of enough.

Enclosed is the hasty, unread notes I made in going over the Caddy deposition. Despite the way Williams closes this, I remain convinced he didn't really have a notion of what he was into. It is also prima facie evidence that Sheridan was a flop without his federal sources to draw upon and he couldn't get anything by eavesdropping. You may get a few ideas as you read this. If Williams had gone stabbing in the dark he'd have drawn blood. Perhaps he had decided in advance to let the thing go to a judge.

I'm not mailing the deposition back but I will if you have to return it soon. I'd rather not take a chance on us having to find the money for almost 100 pages of court-reporter charges.

I marked up the witness summary on Hunt as I read it, but all the marks are outside the margins of the original, smaller sheets of paper. I am sure you'll want a copy and I believe the Whites will, so I'll bring it when I am next in town and you can have both copies made the same time.

One of the more obvious things is that even Weicher fell far short of what from this alone he could have done in the Hunt hearings.

You made no mention of yesterday's Post Hunt story. If you did not get the late edition, Sussman is sending me a copy and I can make one for you. It disproves the day before's fiction that Hunt worked for LBJ, which seems to have been a Baker manufacture. It also says that beginning in 1964 Hunt was engaged in domestic intelligence for the CIA. Shattuck should have done it in his pants! He could have developed all this and more in interrogatories or depositions if he had listened to me, as he indicated he had before I left him in early May. And this all the members of the Ervin committee sat on. Earlier I tired to interest the Post in Baker's cutoff and that executive session and Hunt's broad hint of domestic operations. The stuff I've had for more than a year leaves no doubt of it.

So, to quote the quotable (or should I here say "quoatable?"), tote that bale, man!

Maybe you'd want to try to talk to Hirschkop again? Tell him you know about our long-ago contact and his regrets and that you have the case and how about his coming in? With this admission to the committee and with what should be available from them and with the almost-certainty of being able to depose him now, should he not both grab at it and also see the possibility of decent remuneration? Man we are talking about 10 years of my income when my first book was a best-seller, would have been even a bigger one a year earlier, etcetcetc. We can reach a high figure and I'm confident can get expert testimony tos authentica it. Reread those letters on the inside back cover of Whitewash and assume they are not all like them.Oh yes, Hunt had a 10-man publishing industry operation!!! Barry told me this. It is in their story. He is not certain of what it did.

I leave approaches up to you. regard this as your case and make your own decisions on it. Perhaps Morgan if you don8t prefer Hisrchkop?

Would the belated availability of this information have the effect of tolling the statute?

I believe that this can be that decisive thing I've long wanted. I think there is now no doubt that we have enough to go to court on and I beloeve it is enough to get into many depositions. They can go to court to estop on Helms! Best, HW