JW PH

11/4/71

Dear Jim et al,

When I spoke to Bob yesterday he said he had done some research indicating that Ehrenquist had been involved in policy decisions in the DJ having to do with the FOI cases. Bob said he will be writing a letter, but if he told me to whom or for what purpose, I do not now recall it. I think it can be important.

I did not expect to be heard as a witness against Powell, but I am hoping that the statement can be included in the record. If the committee doesn't, I may seek to get it out in the Congressional Record and then see if there is any interest in publication, anywhere (outside Computers, that is).

I have a reason I hope one of you will consider.

I think it almost certain Powell will be seated, no matter what I said against him, for he is a former ABA president. Thus the record will show involvement and prejudice if and when any cases involving the Warren Commission come before the court and he should disqualify himself.

The same should be sought and if possible done with R, for while his chances are not as certain, the opposition defeated itself with both nominees by its relief reaction when their names were announced. He should have to disqualify himself. But I think either or both may have an inclination not to, so the record should be made and if at all possible get a little attention. I think in no case is any major publicity probable.

Both men are partisans. I know little about R, but P has to be one of the worst legal whores in a house overflowing with them to have sat through what he did and to have ignored what he did and to have been silent about what he was when he was performing his W.C. function.

So you can understand, in all the presidents of the bar association attented but about 9 hearings. The rep of the DC public defender's office, who was no less culpable, no less a traitor to his calling and responsibilities, attented more than all of them combined.

The one sign that can be taken as of decency is their refusal to do anything that could in public reflect on them or the ABA. Short of this, and at a time when they expected everything they did to be permanently secret, they were silent. In such a proceeding? And they lawyers, upholding the tradition of the law.

Of peripheral interest, a quaint picture of Belin re-emerges from this.

But I hope one of you makes an effort to get Bob's work together so that its inclusion in the committee's record may be the result. I do think it belongs there.

Best,