

Dear Jim,

3/20/76

In this morning's mail there was your yesterday's mailing, another from not far away, one from Playboy of the day before, and one from a California friend mailed the same day as the Playboy one.

Three of these were not properly sealed. It can be that in each case the envelope really wasn't sealed fully. I've not tried to examine the one from California because it had sealing wax. But on the off chance that there may be something to this I'll attach it and if you feel it is worthwhile you can consult Ken Smith.

I take it from Bob's letter of the 13th (none from Jimmy was enclosed) that whether or not there was a prior communication, Bob phoned Jimmy on the 10th because he had heard from Jimmy and that this possible earlier letter and Jimmy's of the 11th said goodbye to Bob. I also take it that Jimmy laid it on me because Bob did not send me a carbon. If I'm right I'm also satisfied. I'm quite prepared to stand and confront on what I told Jimmy and the need to. It also takes the heat on me, which is better. And gives Jimmy a better basis less damaging to Bob than the full truth.

In Kelley's letter of the 9th I see a quite different interpretation of Tyler's letter of ~~the~~ 12/1/75 than I recall from reading it, which is good. This says that they have agreed to give us all we have asked for. On this in his grand jury testimony Huie said the FBI followed behind him at Indian Trail and had, plural, identification pictures, pretty clearly meaning more than one of Ray. Addressing suspects. On this I think that if the DJ lawyers ever get to learn that they were lied to by the FBI our chances of what can range from less stonewalling to fair cooperation may result.

However, the letter Kelley refers to has to have been later than our ~~written~~ assurances to Ray Dugan, of 2/11/76, so there is absolutely no excuse for Kelley's delay of four weeks in beginning this search that should have been made not later than before 12/1 and then after long non-compliance. (His second graf.) His contrivance of pitting me is ridiculous, so it helps, more with my prompt letter to Tyler that was received, if Shea has not responded to mine to him. Which also helps. And if they could not complete by 3/15, how much excuse will that have if they do not by more than a week later when he said they'd make every effort and I gave Dugan the 3/23 date?

It seems to me that they cannot have known what not to give me in their excess of compassion without having completed that search and we should ask in order to knock down their pretense of great cost. I don't see how they could have written as they did without having made the alleged search, they waived fees they, so I think we should push on ~~xxxx~~ this but not until after we complete the examination. The fact is that, whether or not our Complaint forced them, and I can understand that perhaps it didn't, they did not act on the May 2 appeal until CBS's program was near and they wanted to use CBS. They served CBS in such haste that CBS had what it later asked for before you were even notified by phone. They cannot have done any copying for CBS without having time to inform you. Or, all these letters help. The more with the sanctimony.

I've read in haste and corrected two more chapters. Because Floyd will be here, with an account of the Downing dowsing, I've not continued with the next. I've had a rather slow typist for three more hours. I don't expect there has been much progress. She is supposed to be good but types less rapidly than I.

Best,