

Dear Jim,

4/17/74

The xeroxes you gave me last week when I returned from Jacksonville are quite interesting. I have begun to read them and will be making separate comments. They do include the Foreman testimonial. It is as prized as Hoover's. Hoover's, of course, was a silent one and this, as you suggest, can be framed!

What I will probably do is make most of the comments separately unless I get too tired. I remain weary although I'm trying to get more sleep. The heavy work is still to be done. I should have started mowing but have other things that must be done first. I've finished grading the driveway itself but have much earthmoving around it yet. I've carried all the locust posts I cut to a single pile and have an ad for them in today's paper. I've got all the tall poplar sawed into firewood and now have to move and stack it where it won't be in the way for the summer. And probably the hardest will be repairing the dam that feed water to the pond. Yesterday I cut the locust logs to length and today I'll start digging them in and somehow roll them into place. That, however, will be only the beginning, for they'll then have to be filled against and behind. Meanwhile I still need all the stones I can get on the fresh earth in the graded driveway, so I do have more than I am up to ahead of me. Because it all has to be done and there is no help I have no choice. My plan is to spell myself more than I have been and to type during rest periods.

However, this may make for a lack of continuity.

John Ray's letter of 3/25/74 is not in any way inconsistent with what I remember of what he wrote me in the past or said when I interviewed him in Leavenworth. This consistency is impressive to me. I do not think there is any possibility that he is being untruthful about any of these numbered items, both sets, or the other comments.

I have no recollection of 4 on p.2. I direct your attention to it because I think it is important and that it is something we should try to follow up on. It says that Foreman knew of "another party" with James and that he tried hard to get the name from the FBI but failed. Aside from this confirming what I've said all along, that the FBI knew the names of James' partners in common crime but lacked evidence to convict them of the murder itself, this indicates that from James or from another source Foreman knew and believed James was not alone. At the least it indicates he believed the "Raoul" story. Because John's use of language is troublesome it is difficult to be certain what is in his mind. However, if he here is saying that there was only one other person in on it, it is wrong. I know of still another from James and from my own reconstructions. And I do mean in Memphis.

On p.3 there is something else I do not recall, "Foreman said that Huie doublecross him..." Let us take this as true, that Huie did, in Foreman's opinion, doublecross Foreman. In what for John may be context, this seems to be in connection with money, but suppose it isn't? With contracts I don't think it is on money. One of the possible inferences is that there was contact between Foreman and Huie prior to Foreman's entry into the case. If so, how fascinating! But I remind you that there is reason to believe Jerry's story about what Huie told him just before the case was to have gone to trial under James.

John is uncertain about part of the visit to James when Foreman was there for the first time. But on the important part, that Foreman went in alone, he is not uncertain. I do not believe he was uncertain when I interviewed him and I do regard his saying he is now uncertain as natural and persuasive that he is being truthful.

As you now know from having met him, John is not easy to understand because of the way he speaks. But I think he will be an impressive witness and that when he is cross-examined he will become more impressive.

John's 4/1 and McMillan exchange: communications were good and fast. Interesting he make no mention of the word from James! And that we've not heard from George Pic.

Dear Mr. Lessor

April 1, 1974

I just recently received your letter, and decide to write to him now, as you see by the enclosed letter he could of been in the way, and with the way the mail get lost etc.

I'm enclosing a copy, plus a couple of clipping from the Chicago Tribune.

I expect you to be in Hampton by the time this arrives.

Sincerely,

John Larry Ray  
Box No. 86788  
PMB 1000  
Marion, Illinois  
62759

GEORGE McMILLAN

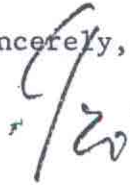
March 22, 1974

*Jack:*

Dear ~~John~~

The U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the First District has upheld the District Court decision giving me the right to interview you. They handed down the decision yesterday. I don't know yet what the Bureau of Prisons will do, whether they will appeal it, or whether they will ask for a stay. I'll keep you informed of things as they move along. But what happened today is a good victory for our side. If the Bureau of Prisons doesn't appeal, I might come out and see you very soon, as soon as the various legal matters can be straightened up. I will write again soon.

Sincerely,



Mr. John Larry Ray 86798-132  
U. S. Penitentiary  
Marion, Illinois 62959

GM:mlz

Dear Mr. McMillan:

April 1, 1974

I will drop you a few lines to let you know that I received your latest letter.

I have to reconsider about the permission that I recently gave you.

I have recently been represented by one of Jimmy's lawyers, and he has advised me that to see you.

I have never talked to you about Jimmy's case anyway, as you said in one of your recent letters.

I have only talked to you about the farm life in Ewing. In any event you should know all about that by now anyway, and would have no more further reasons to talk to me.

I want you to take the letter as a notice not to come here for a visit at Marion.

If you want the right to visit, then I advised you to contact Mr. Loran in Washington.

Sincerely,  
John Farney Ray  
Reg. No. 66792  
PME 1000  
Marion, Illinois  
62459