

12/14/74

Dear Bill,

This hasty note in anticipation of Gibson's arrival.

I've been so deeply and completely occupied by the Ray case that I've not even had time to ask the printer the status of the new book or when he'll deliver. It was supposed to have been the end of last week in the most recent schedule but I've heard no word. So, I have this one set of proofs I'll send by Gibson.

I can see not fewer than three very good stories for you in this. However, I'd prefer not to try to sell you, to let you read it and decide for yourself. I do hope that you can do this soon because I've made no other printed-press approach. As it now stands I'll not be able to until the coming Ray evidentiary hearing is over. There is a preliminary one the 17th and the real one is scheduled for the 22nd. I'm told the judge set aside two weeks for the hearing. I take this as a good sign, that he does intend a full judicial inquiry, the mandate of the 6th circuit in ruling favorably on the petition habeas corpus Jim Besar drafted based on my investigations. (We say nothing publicly about this but Jim, the young lawyer, and I, the oldest of the team, probably older than Jim's father, have actually done all the real work on the case from the first. To give you a full appreciation of what this means, Jim has not taken his bars when he began the legal work and this will be his first real trial. Yet we have done what is without precedent in any assassination case and in the course of it have established a precedent that has the State so hysterical they have filed a petition before the Supreme Court asking a stay. They lost in 6th circuit court of appeals on this.)

This may mean that I'll be in Memphis from the night ~~xxx~~ of the 16th or the early morning of the 17th through the entire hearing. I do not relish this. Last time my room was searched. This time I'll have things, as I avoided last time, the signs of surveillance by then being this obvious. But there may be no choice.

I'm under wraps on the substance of the new work because it is encompassed by a protective order of the court that the State violates but we do not. However, I can tell you that I have never, even, contended with such vile people doing such rotten things. Quite trying to be decent under these kinds of provocations. They have been such miserable subhumans inventing and publicizing such spurious charges that I've even refused pictures and interviews, as has Jim. They'd find some way of distorting this.

In effect my recent work has been pursuant to the mandate of the 6th circuit, which ruled that the entire case "recks" of a full catalogue of legal, ethical, moral and professional irregularities and did say it "requires a full judicial inquiry." So, I've conducted the only investigation pursuant to this mandate, with Jim and I working together on the "discovery" material, where the precedent is involved. I do expect to be called upon to testify to enough of what this investigation discloses. This is FYI, for the future, so you'll understand if and when there are news breaks. Quite a story if it all comes out.

If any of the documents I contracted for this new book appeal, I can supply the full xeroxes. Our problem was space, coming from the basic problem, money. I can supply the originals of the transcript itself if you should ever go for facsimiles. I think the parts with the self-disclosures on the nature of the intelligence apparatus with the TOP SECRET stamps would be exciting to the average reader.

Your own knowledge of the case should tell you when you come to the factual destruction of the entire Report without my notations.

We generally stay at the Albert Pick. Don't know where we'll be this week because they have a convention and are sold out. Perhaps after the convention we'll go there. But I can phone you from Memphis and learn what you think. If you do not go for this, as I hope you will, I'd appreciate this set of proofs back. Best and thanks,