

Mr. (and Mrs.) Les Payne
167 Brooklyn Ave.,
Huntington, N.Y. 11743

11/6/76

Dear Les after Vi,

This is an update for your return and before I can forget during the coming week at Stevens Point.

The FBI has begun to disgorge. Reluctantly still and so slowly. They are to process (whatever that is supposed to mean) about 400 pages a week. In a month they have done it one time only. They probably plan to have a flood for me on my return.

What their large gizzard held is interesting stuff, more so because they began with the junk. I see it as they do not need new proof of their deliberate perjury. They never worry about this and from the record they have no need to. I am going to see if I can change that record. I've made the start under oath and subject to cross examination. I then extended it to the helmeted assistant US Attorney, who rather surprisingly then proceeded to prove I was absolutely right in calling him a deliberate liar. The judge took it all, then defended him and leaned - in words only - on the FBI again. (They don't tickle easy so they don't feel feathers.)

Of course they had many reports of the complicity of the most extreme of the right. The cost of this will be great. We've applied for a waiver on them. The law permits it if that serves the public interest. If they do not accept Jim's representation and want affidavits if you are back he may want to ask one of you. Without saying anything about it they have abandoned charging me search fees. They can't anyway because others are on my back and they have to do this for the House. Besides, I've made an issue of their having to do it for their fourth whitewash, the internal one.

They have said they will give me the 88 volumes in the FBI HQ central index. I have the first two. Should be eight by now. At the rate of the first two the minimum in xeroxing alone will come to not less than \$2,000. And this is not the nitty-gritty stuff nor is it the greatest by volume. Only a fraction of what the field offices hold.

Of course all I get will become an archive. If I do not get support for this work soon it will go to Wisconsin. They will - they have already agreed to - make copies available to others. When I'm out there I'm going to try to turn the good kids on to see if they can drum up some support. The cost of xeroxing is only a small part of the overall costs. In fact I've giving 100% of my honorarium to Jim to meet these costs. I have received a few gifts. I've given them all to him. We'll make out, as we always have. No steaks but I'm overweight anyway.

The wives from the House committee include no single good one. Only some nice pieties from Sprague when I met him at his request last month. Performance is bad and what they are now up to I've had to oppose, first through Jim, who was uncertain, then through a strong letter to Sprague and one to Ray and next on Tuesday when Jerry is to meet me at the airport when I change planes in Chicago. I hope these people are only immature, gung ho, kind of stupid and inept; arrogant beyond measure and self-important. The alternative is worse - and possible. I have not heard from Jim today but if he does as we agreed last night he will have refused to sign a release for them to question Foreman for more than sufficient reason. The legal ones are they are violating his client's rights. Others range upward in significance from their having refused to prepare themselves for it. I may have leaned on Jimmy past where I can influence him but I wrote him at length about this earlier today, with a carbon of my letter to Sprague.

Sprague is tough and savvy. He had all the buildup on me being cantankerous, hard to get along with, etc. I added cranky and a few other when he called me. I did nothing to change his mind when we met, although I was careful to speak softly and indirectly. I told him there is nothing I will not do to help him, no right or property I will not give away, no effort I will not make once they have established bona fides. I also said that until they do I do not assume them. And if I come to feel otherwise I will do what I regard as required by conscience and obligations. He said he agreed. His reaction to the letter I've mailed him today or his lack of it will tell me what I want to begin with on bona fides.

His first assistant is a guy named Ken Brutton, as best I recall. He is a lawyer

from Gainesville, Fla. He's kicked around on the Hill from time to time. He is the nominee of Gonzalez, who is a nut on this subject. I saw no black lawyer when I was there. They have Donovan Gay as research director on both assassinations. Donovan is a nice guy personally and bright but he's learned the bureaucratic ropes and he has learned that the willow bends and the oak breaks off. With Abzug he's done some unethical things. With the ~~black~~ black caucus - he is black - he failed to protect them from ~~the~~ et al. He is two weeks overdue here. He told me he was coming up the Monday after we spoke, with a xerox machine, and making a reservation at the Holiday Inn. I did not expect it so I did not tell him not to bother until I see real credentials. When he was with the Library of Congress and I gave him much he ripped it off and credited it to the Library's research- his employer. I don't care about the ripoff but I do about the consequences and the self-portrayal.

Brutton tried threatening (subtly) and leaning on Jim. I think Jim will have reacted with a refusal to do what he wants under any except our terms. What they want is consistent with the ACLU's evaluation of Sprague as a prosecutor. They said he cares naught for the rights of the accused. There is no sense to what they are up to and no need to deny Ray his rights. They are silly to put Jim on the spot by giving him conflicts to meet. He'll meet them only the right way and most lawyers will applaud him and condemn them if it becomes public.

Sprague is still spending time with certified nuts and even former FBI blackbag operators, Bill Turner. One way to investigate and run an investigation. He makes no effort to check any out. Apparently sees all. The reason is not clear and not sensible.

The guy who seems to be in charge of the King part is named Ozer. He comes from DJ, organized crime task force. The word is he was in charge of the Hoffa killing investigation in Detroit. Not credentials to me. Nor was his manner when I met with him. Another lawyer, Jeremy Akers, a much more pleasant person, is on the King assassination. He was here two days after I was there until 8 p.m. He was to have gone to Memphis right away. I've heard nothing. I did what I could to prepare him for tapping official sources. His prior experience, which can't be extensive, was in civil practise.

They've been talking to Dick Bast, a private dick and one of the least scrupulous. He is the guy who did that job for Tolson by a pretendedly or real tapping of their confab that he promptly leaked, much to Colson's benefit.

No word from Fauntroy. He's been on the Today show. No word from any Member, in fact, to Jim or to me.

They've not even spoken to me about JFK. Take what you will from this. I see no good in it. Especially not when Sprague talks to the Turners and the insane.

Slow but steady progress in the JFK suits. I've gotten some discovery material from the FBI in one. They don't know I have their file codes. So I can tell you that they have my FOIA suits against them filed under "internal security." We may be ~~deposing~~ deposing some agents and former agents soon. Some also were active in their King coverup. I'm back in court on one on the 18th. That is the one in which the CIA is months late responding to interrogatories. I think they'll be better off stalling until the last minute and then filing them as non-responsively as they dare. They may just stonewall and appeal.

Probably nobody who has not lived through it can begin to feel what you have been living. If you've been filing stories the Post has not carried any. I look forward to your safe return and possibly a great book.

Best to you all,