

2/14/80

Dear Carol,

Jerry gets more foolish by the day, something I once would have considered impossible, given how foolish he has always been. But now, with his ego all blown up by all his speeches ~~and~~ about how smart and how tough he is, because he believes them all, and by Mark's own way of conning them both by telling them they are wise and to go ahead and do what he'd do if he had time, he is about to mess up what possibilities John has. So I've enclosed a carbon of my letter to him.

It does no good to do as Jimmy does, keep on filing suits that get thrown out of court. If it makes Jimmy happy maybe that has value to him. But that kind of silliness won't and can't do John any good. He wants first of all to stay out and next, if and when he files something, to have it mean something. Jim and I both think he has a decent chance for an action against Blakey and the Congress. The question is one of being able to go about it the right way and with the right people. We are trying to see if we can develop something, and it doesn't have to be done tomorrow or today. It is more important to do it right and with the right people.

If John wants to talk to Jim about it why don't you have him call some time when he is at your house now that he is out?

You should understand that there are heavy political involvements because the most important records we got are those that the DJ could have held back within the law. They had to have their own political reasons for letting them out and I think it was because they figured I'd arrange for the kind of story I did. Which means they wanted that printed without any connection with them. It helped John so I was glad to do it.

Jerry doesn't understand the meaning of the records he has gotten. I'd have gotten them for him 3-4 years ago, as I offered to you. And I'd have gotten more and with fewer blackings out. I've not seen all of them and I have no personal interest in any of them. Jimmy is probably mad at me again because I refused to go along with more of his foolishness because he has not sent me those Jerry loaned him. For myself I could not care less whether I see them. However, what I may be able to learn from them may enable us to get other records that are still withheld. I've made a list of the possibilities from what I've sent back to Jerry. But I can't and I won't go off half cocked and Jim won't, either, if only because he has no time and all this free work is ruining him financially.

Don't be deceived or in any way misled by the announcement of the new DJ investigation. It is not an investigation of the King assassination, not one of Jimmy's guilt or innocence. It is an investigation of a Ray family conspiracy, probably without you, only Jerry and John and co-conspirators. It will be a great wonder if Jerry's continuing stupidities, what he thinks is smart, will not help them. They do have a prima facie case of Jerry's Lincoln being near a bank robbery and of Jerry personally being near one, and all it takes is a little more blabbing by Jerry to ruin him and John both. Jerry is easy to trick and they are probably going to make the effort. John can keep his mouth closed but Jerry can't. They also can place John and Jerry together near one and at the time of one, whatever they were really there for.

Excuse my haste. Someone is due here any minute.

Sincerely,