Dear Jim, re John Ray 2/29/80

I heard from Carol Pepper today, long call. It is not at all certain that John skipped out, as the stupidity Jerry told me. She is afraid that he is sick. I can think of other explanations. But here are some of the things I learned.

John was sent to Springfield as a worker, not a patient. Maybe the Bureau of Prisons does crazy things, but sending him there for so short a period is crazy.

Before he got out he wrote Carol and asked her to take his clothes to their father's. He said he would pick them up there. He sold his little farm and I suppose he is in the St. Louis area.

John phoned his father after he was out of Springfield. He told him he'd spend a little time in town, whatever that means, and then would come over. The father never heard from him again.

There is no manhunt for him, not that he is so big a crook, but it would again make a big headline.

A U.S. Marshal made a single inquiry, and that more than two weeks after John did not show up at the half-way house.

He told Carol he would be writing me before he left Springfield. I've not heard from him, before or since.

Carol is afraid that all of Jerry's crazy talk will make more trouble. She hopes no word gets to the press.

Now that the boys are well grown, and both work after school, and with inflation cutting into her savings, she has gotten a job, from 6 to 10 a.m. This lets her continue to be a housewife and mother. She has to get up at 4:45, though. One of the boys wants to be a forester. Both are wrestlers.

As you may recall, Albert has worked for the one employer all his adult life.

If that stupidity Jerry had every read the first batch of FBI files on him he'd never have sent them to Jimmy. Who got his eyes opened. Old told Jerry to shut up and stay shut up. He must have told Carol. On her own she learned much because unlike Jerry she got and read the HSCA stuff.

Hastily,