5/8/71

Dear Gary,

A number of new problems, a large stack of accumulated mail and cleaning up after the NY trip (my bag is not yet unpacked after two days, one spent in Baltimore), have helped slow me down again. Yesterday, aside from what I had done before, I mailed 16 large letters in the a.m. You have or will have a few.

I'm starting this because of several things in your 5/4 that are of interest, but I'll lay it aside in a few minutes for supper.

I agree with your Ray comments. I had a letter written by him after his recapture ij today's mail. He passes it off as nothing, making only slight and indefinite mention to it. If one did not know what had happened, one would not know that he had tried a stupid break. But your point is one that you oguth pursue further, the point of set up. He would seem not to learn fast. Or to have expected something else. Particularly if you know that country as I do was it, if isolated, really stupid.

No point in further comment on Bud. Boggs, though he took a good position, did not handle himself of his facts well.

I think that like everything else there is a change in blacks and that slowly, in some ways, I am bringing it about. There was a good turnout at my press conference, with an award from a black group (not mentioned in the only reporting of which I know). The conservative black Amsterdam News in New York had it page 1, col one above the fold but the London Telegraph killed their reporter's filed story on the London end-the court stuff. Ebony, Jet and Essence covered, Sepia is supposed to be coming here, and I think other things impend. Had it not been for Bud's insanity, I'd have met with Jesse Jackson when Jim was here. And that, aside from straightening out Jim's head, was a waste. This I think I'd best learn how to ignore in the future, let the insane be insane. We've lost our credibility through them. It is just possible that the more irresponsible they get the more there will be a tendency by the media to separate.

I'm sorry you won't be able to make it this summer, for there are things with which I had hoped you could help. One, and the basic thing, is coming to a head now that I've forced a fall date for trial on the noise-damage suit. The government had stalled for two years. At my insistence the judge is putting an end to it. The US Atty is due here to go over records 5/19. I forced some on him a month or less ago. The part that will be the real hangup will be the personal and I regret permanent damage to Lil and me, and that will not be easy to measure or assess in damages. I will need real experts and, when the precedent is already set in the first suit, it holds great potential for relief for others, as my first suit did in cash awards (the first citing it as precedent got $5,000,000 for property owners in a single area). I don't trust the shrinks here, don't know any, and in this long delay my expert of choice has disappeared, perhaps is dead. I have never discussed this with you, but the effects were terrible and they linger. In Lil I can see them better than in myself, but I suspect that a competent examination of my medical records will establish that the anxiety began way back then. Worse, we'll have no money for fancy fees. However, I do think that with this as open and shut as it is and with the precedent established, this part holds great promise for the many hurt. Even the judge as much as told the other lawyer the only real question is the amount of damage for he had already found on the facts (in that case for damages to chickens only). Perhaps some of your people have some ideas, know those who ar expert and can be interested. I do not think the government will really settle, but I must go through the motions. Trial will present a more serious problem than my being my own lawyer, Lil's glaucoma and what a single great stress can do to it. She wept just waiting yesterday in the judge's outer office. Neither our spirits nor our energy are good. And I weary so rapidly now. Lil stays with headaches. But we do plug along. Best.