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19TH APRIL 1971

MR. JAMES E. RAY 65477  
BOX 73  
PETROS, TENNESSEE 37845

DEAR MR. RAY:


BOTH OF YOUR LETTERS TO JERRY ARE HERE WAITING ON HIS RETURN FROM ST. LOUIS. HE WILL BE THERE UNTIL AFTER JOHN IS SENTENCED ON FRIDAY, THE 23RD.

THE FBI FRAMED JOHN. THEY EVEN RESORTED TO PLANTING "EVIDENCE" ON HIM. THE TRIAL STARTED ON MONDAY MARCH 29 AND THE JURY CAME OUT WITH A VERDICT AT 11:35 P.M. ON TUESDAY NIGHT, APRIL THE 6TH. I SAW JOHN AGAIN THE NEXT DAY AND THEN FLEW TO JACKSONVILLE.

I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER UPON RETURNING. I HAVE FELT DESPONDENT EVER SINCE JOHN'S TRIAL. ANOTHER THING THAT HURT JOHN WAS THAT THEY PUT HIM ON TRIAL WITH ANOTHER DEFENDANT WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED WITH MARKED MONEY ON HIM.

WITH BEST WISHES, I REMAIN

SINCERELY YOURS,



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MAY 9, 1971

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DEAR MR. RAY:

THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS IN CINCINNATI TURNED DOWN YOUR APPEAL, BUT IT WAS A SPLIT DECISION. JUDGE MILLER DISSENTED AND WROTE A DISSENTING OPINION IN YOUR FAVOR. THE FACT THAT THE DECISION AGAINST YOU WAS A SPLIT DECISION GIVES US BETTER GROUNDS FOR GETTING A HEARING BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. MR. RYAN AND I ARE ASKING THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR A REHEARING EN BANC IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE COURT INSTEAD OF ONLY A THREE JUDGE PANEL. OF COURSE, IF THEY REFUSE A HEARING EN BANC, WE WILL PETITION THE U.S. SUPREME COURT AS WE HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO DO IN DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU.

I THINK THAT THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT WILL HEAR YOUR CASE. IF THEY GRANT A HEARING, THERE SHOULD BE A DECISION BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR. I THINK THAT WE HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT. I THINK YOUR CASE NOW LOOKS VERY GOOD, THANKS TO GOD AND JUDGE MILLER.

I AM ENCLOSING A PHOTO COPY OF THE DECISION BY THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS SO THAT YOU CAN READ IT AND THE DISSENTING OPINION BY JUDGE MILLER. ALSO ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF THE LETTER FROM THE CLERK. THE ONLY REASON FOR HILL'S NAME ON THE LETTER IS BECAUSE HIS NAME IS ON THE ORIGINAL SUIT THAT WAS FILED. OF COURSE, HILL IS NOT ON THE APPEAL CASE AT ALL.

IF THE COURT OF APPEALS REFUSES TO GRANT OUR MOTION FOR REHEARING EN BANC, WE WILL THEN PETITION THE SUPREME COURT FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI.

I CONFIRMED THE FACTS THAT YOU GAVE ME ABOUT MEMPHIS. I WILL WRITE YOU IN DETAIL ABOUT SUCH LATER BECAUSE OUT OF TOWN GUESTS JUST WALKED INTO MY OFFICE. ONE OF THE SERVICE STATIONS IS NOW CLOSED AND USED FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

I HAVE BEEN READING ABOUT YOU IN THE NEWSPAPERS. SURELY, YOU WOULD NOT WANT TO LEAVE A NICE REST RESORT WHERE ALL OF THE SERVICES ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND WHERE YOU HAVE COMPLETE SECURITY, FREE MEDICAL CARE, FREE LAUNDRY, FREE CLOTHES, FREE FOOD, ETC. YOU ARE LIVING IN THE PERFECT WELFARE STATE WITH NO PROBLEMS. OF COURSE, I DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING I READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

*J. B. Stoner*