

3/3/71

Dear Both,

As I'm certain some of the enclosed show, I saw Ray. Please say nothing about it, for I'm not. I couldn't get to making notes on it until today, and I haven't even collated them yet. I taped the whole thing, with everyone's okay, including the warden, who even let me disconnect the phone. The acoustics must be impossible, for the echo interfered with comprehension when he was sitting next to me.

My whole trip was absolutely beyond description in what it yielded. And I need make no apologies for the book.

I think that we have done the seemingly impossible, established some kind of rapport with this strange man, who seems so utterly incapable of such extreme violence. Unlike what I expected, he is as meek a man as I have ever seen. Soft-spoken, modest in all expression, self-effacing in every way. He didn't want even a few bucks, but thanked for them and the couple of books. He said he gets along okay on his \$11.00 monthly from whatever work he does.

As time goes on I am certain he will be more helpful. He has said he will be.

It is possible he told me more than he realizes. I deliberately didn't plan an organized questioning not to telegraph, so we wandered all over the place, which served not to focus any of my interests. I think he was pretty honest.

Not coming from him - he just wasn't there - I am pretty confident that the shot came from an overgrown parking lot between the flophouse and the firhouse. I have witnesses to it, including one who told the DA, who eliminated that while using the rest of what this man said, and one who was so told by the police on the scene at the time of the crime. I can establish that the car was gone before the shot was fired and know where it was and what was being done to it but I haven't that in hand in the form of proof. Nothing remained of the State case when I completed the book. Now I put the hat of deliberate frame-up on them, but tightly.

If I'd have had a bit more time, I think there is nothing I could not have gotten. Never have I found locals so sympathetic. I fully expect some of the black help at the hotel to turn up witnesses for me! Somehow, they all knew all about me immediately. The hostess in the coffee show told me Sunday she had met Ray's wife! Needless to say, I didn't ask her for a signed statement.

Keep the faith! We'll do it yet! If Nixon hasn't changed all the Supreme Court into 'Burgers first.

Best regards,