

Dear Jim,

7/2/76

The mail was exceptionally early this a.m., my walk was a bit late, so when I walked back to the house I was able to skim your letter with the enclaves in the brown envelope. Right now I'm not wasting a drink or I'd be mowing, as I will be when I finish it. And my stability or lack of emotion are such that I'm not really upset about not being able to reach any trustworthy reporters with what is an unprecedented or close to unprecedented legal Ray story. (Mostly holiday weekend time offs and vacations.)

We welcome the news about Je's good condition. Hers is a much more difficult situation and I don't time myself but I'm at the point where I can now put these tough supports on in the dark. When I must, as this morning, I do start before dawn. However, her experience internally matches mine externally, that the ease with which I can get things straight varies with the weather. It is hot now, but we had a cool night and early morning and I can't remember an easier time, in total darkness. It is good to know that despite the time-clock and computer she is doing so well.

On your carport, when you have the consultation of a contractor and you both have knowledge of local special problems, this suggestion may not be relevant. But I make it. With or without the concrete, can you not use pressure-treated softwood (like pine) posts readily available for pole buildings? If you can use them they are not that expensive and could be installed without removing the redwood you now have. I take it your framing on the deck has not dry-rotted. If this is feasible and you have forgotten your youth I can tell you about tamping if you would not need a concrete bedding-footing. The need in this area is to get below the frostline, not your need. The local cedar and locust are as dependable in rot-resistance as the treated stuff but we are not close enough for me to make a gift, as I would.

If I get more bogged down, from your DC days you may be able to believe how extraordinary it is for the Supreme Court to ask for the Ray files of the Cincinnati appeals court without a petition cert having been filed. At the same time the appeals court has already returned the Ray file to the district court. Simultaneously it has rejected Lesar's motion to be relieved, which can only mean he must file a petition cert, and has rejected Ray's request that he be recognized pro se. I am certain the combination has no precedent and the S.C request is close to this. There may have been some independent or inspired second-thoughts but whatever it means, and I have no knowledge, it is a story. Much muddled by the incredible Ray. Wisely, I believe, Lesar did not disclose the knowledge I gave him last night when he had to speak to sixth-circuit today, of the return of the Ray file to Memphis. They also did not disclose it to him. Clockwork Purple.

To be continued for reasons that will become apparent.