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Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
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Dear Harold:

Enclosed are Dick Russell's rough transcript of Judge Brown's speech at the Centenary Methodist Church in Memphis last April 4th, and more polished version which was published in Jim Di Eugenio's "Probe" magazine. Judge Brown also gave a speech the following night at a COPA conference which went even further than his speech of the previous night. (I have a video tape of the latter speech, but not of the former.)

When I am next at law library--which shouldn't be much longer--I will get you the entirety of McRae's published opinion. (A page is also missing from the original which I retained.)

I think, however, that you may be disappointed, since in a hasty skimming of the opinion before I copied it, I didn't find any ruling that guilt or innocence was irrelevant to the voluntariness of the guilty plea. I do recall such a ruling, but suspect that it may have occurred in a preliminary order, either written or from the bench, issued before or during the evidentiary hearing.

Best regards to you and Lil. I hope to get up to Frederick to see you shortly.

Sincerely yours,


Jim