

3/4/71

Dear Wayne,

The extra pressures atop my customary heavy workday have not ended, but I've completed my notes on the long interview I conducted on the way home and cleaned up the most pressing of the accumulated mail. I've not even filed the notes I made down there. Letters from the general counsel of the Army and the Deputy attorney General are not yet answered. I'll do them today.

With a few minutes before breakfast, I write for several things. First, to again, sincerely, thank you for your many kindnesses. Second, to tell you that I did not forget, that yesterday I did send you all four books. And third, to ask an additional favor of you.

I am trying to make this one easy for you and to locate the witness I will ask you to interview. If I can do that, so you will not have to do the searching, it should not be burdensome for you. Not the gas station attendant.

If you do not have a cassette tape recorder or any other portable one, can you borrow one for this (or any other) interview? There is a great advantage in having interviews taped. There is also an added burden, for it sometimes requires the transcribing of the tapes. However, this will be important in several areas, most of all bearing on two things: the integrity of the work of the prosecution and the withholding of exculpatory evidence.

If you do not have such a machine, broke as you now are, I would encourage you to consider getting one for your own work, for there is a protection in having interviewees on tape. They can't make false accusations later. If this hasn't already happened to you, you are a lucky reporter. Mine is an expensive one and a lemon. Decent ones can be obtained today for as little as \$20, but I would not recommend them. The one I'd like to be able to afford is the miniaturized cassette machine that can be slung inside the jacket and takes a regular cassette. At least one has a built-in mike. My desires exceed portability. So, witnesses put on a special show when they know they are on mike. I prefer simple truth.

This other witness is Bessie Brewer. I have no doubt Ray is the one who took that room. The account is tainted, but that isn't the point. My interests in her are these: who tried to bribe her to say what she wouldn't and who else was in that room, or who else did she see. The way the place was laid out then, she need have seen nobody else, but it is possible. Those she may not have seen could have used the 418 $\frac{1}{2}$ stairs and been entirely unseen. And here I would caution you to believe that when we start getting this (these) identification(s) we are getting into the dangerous area.

It should be possible to locate her through any credit bureau check, unless hers is an even lower station. One other, and minor, thing I could use in the future, for the ultimate destruction of every vestige of the frame-up, is an interview with the then landlord. Stephens had a fight and threatened to kill, not more than two hours before the assassination. I think it was the woman of the husband-and-wife owners.

It will not be possible to background you on what I learned after I saw you until we are again together. I hope that can be soon. Many thanks.

Sincerely,