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3/19/72

Mr. W.F. Childress, Editor  
Knoxville Journal  
Knoxville, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Childress,

By radio today I have heard the first public reporting of the banning of Jerry from seeing James. I do not attribute anything sinister to the belated reporting nor, for that matter, to the considerably more extensive account I heard on the Washington Post's all-news radio station after noon (and this is Sunday) than after 11 a.m.

As you know, I am disquieted by all of this and by and large, mine is one of the less conspiratorial views.

The truthful account has yet to appear, to my knowledge, and I do not understand why when there now has been an official announcement.

James has sent me the letter the warden wrote him. It was dated 3/7. Now the alleged escape attempt was more than a month earlier and Jerry's taking of the letter to Edmondson was more than two weeks earlier, 2/21.

The letter was not written to Jerry. It was written to James, with copies to Jerry and "files". I'll be glad to send you a copy if you'd like. And, as before, I'd appreciate copies of any stories you can send, for my own information and for the completeness of my files.

None of this inspires a more optimistic estimate of James' survival chances.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg