

Harold Weisberg Rt. 8, Frederick, Md.
May 23, 1972

Dear John,

A little good news for a change.

Today I heard from the law student with whom it had been impossible to meet after I saw you and before I had to leave St. Louis. I had met with him before I saw you to see if he and other law students would help with your defense.

Their final examinations are over. He is willing and he says he thinks some of the others are. How many or who I do not yet know. I will.

I do not recall if I told your case worker or the warden of this possibility or not. I know I did have a chance to discuss it with Mr. Dutton, and I did. I think he will remember it.

Although it would be premature to expect anything right away, I am writing you to let you know and so that the next time you see your case worker you can tell him that they may, one or more of them, be coming to see you after they have ~~met~~ ^{familiarized} themselves with the case.

The one with whom I met and to whom I have written a long letter today is Dana Contratto. He is the one with whom I will stay in touch and through whom I will try to arrange for what should be done to be done. If he cannot get it in St. Louis, he may want to borrow your copy of the trial transcript.

I have given him Mr. Hampe's address and phone number. The first thing they will have to do is familiarize themselves with the facts, the record, the appeal and the petition for cert.

As soon as I can I'll be sending him copies of your letters. They will preserve the contents in strict confidence, as though they were licensed lawyers. They may or may not share your political views, if any, but that will make no more difference with them than it would with me. They will need these as leads. I'll do the same with the excerpts of the tape I made when it is transcribed, giving them what is necessary for leads and for further investigation, to see if we can come up with what can be recognized as new evidence. He will stay in touch with me.

I think you may now see why I asked you to make a complete record of the things that can be useful in an investigation. You should have learned the significance of things you had to have no way of knowing could be significant until after the trial. And you may have thought of some things after you wrote me and after you spoke. Where you have full names and addresses, places of business, descriptions, things like that, be sure to put all particulars down. I think perhaps the best way to do this and what might be easiest for you would be to do it as though you were telling a story, stopping at each point where they may need to know details to include them.

Meanwhile, let us hope that the petition is granted.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg