

9/11/70

Dear Mary,

Chiefly because I suppose you may be a little concerned because you know how I feel, this is to let you know that there was neither explosion nor breach and a perhaps substantial amount of agreement today when Jim Lessr finally got here, first a day late and then several hours after he was due. He is a good fellow and was faultless, first having his transportation not available yesterday and then being sent on miscellaneous errands today after he phoned and said when you would be here. If not the best time for this kind of added abuse, there were no consequences. He came in one of Bud's cars. Shortly he arrived Bud phoned to say he had to change cars, and several hours later Bud was here and did, remaining briefly with his boy Bernard. That part was pleasant and largely superficial, except for general agreement on a rather daring proposal I'd made to Jim earlier, that we offer the judge and the prosecutor page proofs of the book to further amplify what can be said of Ray's state of mind and what relates thereto as of the time he was forced to decide on Foreman's deal. If they do that, it surely will blow minds! If this is not clear enough without explanations, ask them. Of course, it may represent a certain jeopardy to my book, but what the hell, Bud's stalwarts have already zeroed in on it and my work anyway.

Preparatory to Jim's getting here I completed a lengthy memo on Ray's state of mind. I'm getting to be pretty much of a non-lawyer lawyer, I guess. Jim seemed satisfied and I suppose the content covers it. I've not yet read it and probably won't.

At the outset I gave Jim a rough understanding of what I feel strongly, why I do, what I consider its potential, and that of which I am capable if it is not corrected, and completely corrected, as soon as the present brief is completed and filed. In some cases I was pretty specific and in all pretty blunt. Jim is in the middle, but he is also in a position to accomplish something because he is. This also keeps a sort of hairy thing with only bristles. We'll see.

Considering the shortened time, I guess we covered pretty much. Most of it was on the case. The opening was relatively brief and cleared the air.

He also brought an essentially rapid and in some ways very bad thing Jim Smith had sent Paul. It is ideally suited for selective quotation that would be both accurate and misquotation. Heive is hardly the word. Further letter from Sylvia today, of which I sent you copy of reply, because to show possibility of her thinking as I consider possible. I've heard from no others yet nor have I and any word from the west coast.

We have a new battery in the car. I'll think of you warmly every cold morning that it starts!

More and more I'm getting the feeling that if we get this Ray hearing we're close to home clear. If I can feel the federal pulse, it is too rapid, and I've never been as pessimistic as Bud about the Tenn court. I figure I figured them more accurately than Bud, for one of the things I urged upon him in the initial brief that he decided to keep out the judge has now asked for. Because it is not kind to his former friend Battle and he has to know it, I take this as a good sign, although other interpretations are also obvious...We're to get together some time next week, after Jim finishes the legal draft.

Sincerely,