

Dear Roger,

11/20/76

When we spoke earlier this week I discouraged you from taking a job with the House committee if they act favorably on your application. Since then I've had further contact with them, especially Sprague, and several long conversations with Martin Waldron. (If you have his story in tomorrow's edition I'd appreciate a copy.)

Sprague is a poker face who is not forthcoming or honest. We have had our experiences, Jim and I. They are not good, any of them. I'm sure Lesar will confirm this. As of this past Wednesday, when we saw Sprague together at his invitation after our firm contesting of his plan to screw Ray. He has not really abandoned it. Rather he is trying to con us. Wanna bet?

He says Gonzalez told him what I suspected, that Lane is for all practical purposes running the committee now. Thus the stupid factual error on the alleged destruction of Memphis police King records. Not this and not at the time claimed. Earlier and over a suit by a VVAW member.

In executive session they heard Greder and saw his Zapruder. He was so extreme that Sprague, knowing nothing about the case, had to disown him.

They are not only leaking already - they can't keep control of what they have, little as they now have. I loaned them some Ray transcripts. They had to replace one volume from the copies they'd made for themselves. Why? It has disappeared. Not in the office. Lesar laughs and says Lane did not return it. My deal with them is that they give no other person anything I let them have. They'll have no more chances as of now. If this were in their offices they'd have found it. I had to let them have this when I did not know what I've learned since. It does ground them in the facts of that case.

That place will be a sieve. His will provide a convenient basis for firing anybody.

However, my major concerns are that you'll be unwelcome and unable to do anything worthwhile. I believe you'd do better to do your best. From what I've seen of that bunch if you try to straighten them out they'll lay you out.

They need good people. As of yesterday, according to Waldron, they had not hired a single investigator. From the names he gave me only lawyers and clerks. None of them knows the subjects at all. One of their researchers told me Wednesday, "Oh, I know you. I've read your book." Research does not include published materials when all they need do is phone the Library of Congress. By the way, they've not asked any of mine. How can they with only \$150,000 for two months? A borrowed copy of Frame-Up is going around.

While I'd like to think they'll straighten out all the vibes are bad and so are the controlling Members.

Was an order against CIA Thursday. It requires them to respond to interrogatories. Maybe they will. I think they'll stall first. That suit is not against them. They are, however, the withholding authority.

In about two weeks we'll be filing a new and large action.

Think about the committee carefully. I also believe that there are those who will plant nasty things about you if you go there.

Best,