

3/2/72

Dear Dad,

Yesterday, before I read the Ray decision, Jim and I talked about a number of possibilities.

I have now read the decision. I presume you consider it a way of getting into federal court faster. However, if you do not, I got a couple of ideas while reading it.

Is it too late to take further depositions? Stoner's are incompetent. There are things he may have ruined, but if they can still be reopened, do you want to?

As a matter of record, note the language that "new retained counsel took the position ~~that~~ of treating the letters as motions for a new trial." Didn't the courts? Ray's letters are dated before Battle died, too.

AP did move a story 2/24 out of Jackson. I have not heard of it being used. I presume it was in Tenn. It lumps the decision and the alleged jail breaks. I'd be interested in knowing the usual lag before decision and its filing.

Not by mail, but if you are there, please ask James the names of any who can in any way corroborate any part of his story that he did not make any attempt to break out.

The whole damned thing is just too pat. I have a very uneasy feeling about all of it. I also have a feeling that they are not only going to have to do something about him but have started to lay a foundation for it.

On another subject that you have let slide: I'd appreciate the return of my things that for more than two years you were going to and haven't. Announcement of your deal with the college makes me more interesting in having this happen now. As you know, nothing of mine was to have gone into your general files, ever. I have written about this earlier and there has never been any action or response. The longer it is delayed the better the chances for trouble.

I have completed the draft of the epilogue to POST MORTEM but will let it cool for a little while before editing. Hil is not in a position to retype it now anyway.

Best,