

Dear Larry,

8 /5/73

The stories enclosed with your 7/31 explain your interest in Osanka and, I think, Clement Stone's atypical rush to the press to explain how he gave all those millions to Nixon and Nixonians. I would take it to mean that if he did not know of or was not part of Marilyn Smith's hot little fingers act in the Walker campaign, he believed he was involuntarily part of it. A friend sent me a clip including a Woodcock statement that also explains Stone's generosity to Nixon as bread cast, something like a ten time return to his Combined Insurance Co., said now to be his smallest.

I don't know how close the federal prison at Marion is to where Rife now is, but if you will be going and have time, ask Jerry to ask John if he would like to see you. John is the most racist of all the Rays, is an odd type, but I've never found him telling me a lie. There is also a guy in Marion who drew up some apparently spurious statements against the Rays, for an illiterate, following which the illiterate got preferential treatment, if that interests. Once John got to Marion, I sent him the name of the prisoner who acted as jailhouse lawyer. There is a rather unusual story in John that we can give you if you'd like. It started with me, Jim worked on it, and it involves legal issues, so it would require Jim's o.k. and he won't be back for another ~~ten days~~ five days. A petition cert was filed with the Supreme Court of the US on John's behalf. The repressiveness of the decision against him is hard to describe excessively, and I mean as applied hereafter to others, especially in political cases. Well, good old Burger Court lost the thing. Actually. And the lawyer had no interest and never followed up, not even when first I then Jim needled him. Jim finally got proof that it was filed by getting a copy from the office of the Solicitor General, to which they are automatically sent to have copies made so he can respond for the U.S. Man, this is a better formula than controlling Congress. It eliminates it.

John was up S Creek without a paddle, the way he was done in, first by that stalwart friend Stoner and then by a Nixonian judge. This, however, may make a difference. The effect of the decision is to make evidence not admissible against a partner in an alleged conspiracy with whom it call allegedly be connected (illegal search and seizure) admissible against another alleged conspirator with whom it can't even be alleged to be connected.

Keep telling me what you learn from Jerry. It is informative. Bud has been the big problem all along. Jim and I have done our best to work around it, but what the Ray's didn't mess, he did. He knew I was leaning on the Rays and what he told Jerry was the worst of all possibilities. Except for me, because I've been wanting out for a long time and, after some experiences two years ago, told Jim that except for advice I would be after he finally drafted the habeas corpus. But knows the Ray's intent but not the source. Jim, who is trustworthy, knows all. Were this not dangerous, I'd not trust Bud with the little I have. I don't want him knocked off and it can happen. I could have broken this thing three or more years ago had it not been for Bud. It is now too dangerous and with the Ray attitude, not worth any risk. However, little details Jerry might drop, any name, could be important. And they were all connected with a downstate mob leader. When you see Walter, tell him I asked him to trace all those connections for you and ask your people to give you enough time, besides for his story, for you to get it all. Walter will trust you, so take a good, small tape machine. Walter used to work for some people just busted in and near Chicago, hot stamps and police payoffs. If you could feed him some leads he might be able to feed back some ways of identifying your Adams County cattle and hog rustlers. I take it this is topical out there now.

Hasling Muskie seems to have been a major Nixonian preoccupation philosophically attuned to Stone, I suspect, so I hope you can carry that further.

Bud's committee, alas, is not out of business. It has been so long since I've been there I don't remember the address. Look right. I'll give to Jim. The elevator operators and the postman serving the building knew Bob and Jim well...Any chance you can check your morgue on the donors to the Nixon Checker's fund? Story broke NYPost 9/52. Dana C. Smith big wheel(er-dealer). I can't get to Library Congress. Followups New Republic, Drew Pearson, others. Be interesting of Dana C. is related to C. Arnholt, although that is not my reason. Thanks and best,

July 31, 1973

Dear Harold,

Sorry to be so long between letters. It looks like I may be able to do a Rife piece but not for some weeks. I talked to his Ill. Defenders Project attorney and the guy is interested although a bit leary of the escape business. Because we now have a new Constitution in Illinois there may be a mass reduction in sentences of those convicted prior. The new law now limits burglary sentences to a max of 20 years or so. In the case of marijuana convictions they have already gone back and reduced sentences en masse. There is some movement to do this in other cases.

The brother was pissed at you because of the severity of that letter you wrote. He told me that Bud had told him that when you get to tough that brother should just come on equally as tough. That resulted in his responding letter. (don't tell him that.) He also thinks that you are automatically against some people because they are racists.

He said that James would not make his move until Fensterwald was out of the picture. In the prior conversation he mentioned both bud and you.

He called last week to ask my advice on talking to Jesse Jackson. He wanted to send Jackson a letter asking for a talk and send copies to the newspapers. I told him the papers idea was bad, just send to Jackson. He said he would. I also cautioned him that Jackson is a publicity hound. He said he would not give any ideas of what is to happen. I doubt if Jackson will talk to him. I sent brother a copy of that Abernathy tape from last year. He liked it.

The only significant thing I think I left out of the phone conversation was the fact he said James ~~was~~ told him that the FBI would be "embarrassed" by his revelations, but that they were not directly involved. He said James did not explain this and he did not understand what it might mean. I suggested that the FBI may have had a 24-hour tail on the subject as well as a 24-hour bug.

Stone does not like me much, true. I will survive. The first story, which is enclosed--has prompted a tip on a second which the Sun-Times is also working on. Allegedly Stone paid several thousand cash to a minor Republican functionary in Illinois to perform sort-of clean dirty tricks. This involved helping the McGovern people defeat Muskie on the theory that Muskie would do better in Illinois and would help other Dems. down the ticket. He operated in and out of Illinois.

This story is pretty much stalled and the Sun-Times is also working it. Is the committee out of business. I got the enclosed letter back. Please give to Jim when you see him.

I agree that Executive Action is mostly crap. But I think it will help get the basic idea across to a lot of people who cannot be fazed by facts and reasoning.

Finley