

3/2/72

Dear Larry,

Relat 27: Thanks for the wire copy on rejection of Ray's appeal (remarkable how the announcement of the alleged escape attempt was delayed until so close to its ~~release~~), which I have not seen reported in any paper, and the old Banister clips.

There had to ~~xxx~~ be something fishy about your elders who considered Banister to be your Commissioner of Police in 1960, after he had been fired by the N.O. Police for serious and most irresponsible misconduct.

The reason reported for his leaving the FBI is hokum. My source is Aaron Kohn, blood-oney of Jim Garrison and B's former FBI associate and the man probably, behind the scenes, responsible for his going to N.O. Banister had irreversible brain damage before he left Chicago. This is probable the direct or indirect cause of his leaving FBI. He did not go to more money. K. says this is really why he got so crazy in N.O., but I do not think it accounts for his farout, extreme-even-for-the-right politics. In the heartland of racism, he was one of the more conspicuous and outstanding ones.

I have the Ray decision but haven't read it yet. Jim says it is the same old stuff.

Jim also says Bob filed this copy. I was in DC yesterday. Didn't call Bob.

The more I think of what Ray has said about not having tried to escape, the more I am inclined to believe him, strange as it may seem. If he is telling the truth, then it has to be a bad sign that such stuff is pulled.

The initial reports were false. He was not caught in the act. The strongest claim to evidence is the allegation that he was seen sneaking away from the general area.

Garrison has had some experience with knees and elbows. Makes a frequently-accepted substitute for fact. Most people, do not read as critically as you do. None of the first part of the book except its error is original with him. If you do not recall the early JFK years, you will not understand the man from this late-coming idolatry.

Thanks. Best regards.

Sun. Feb. 27...

Dear Harold,

Copy of Ap wire on appeal turn-down. Also a couple clips I found in our Banister file. I'm rereading Garrison's book. He has a nice way of sticking a general paragraph in right after a specific, so as to say something while not being culpable.

The short clip I sent you was one we ran in our news briefs column.

F.