

Should have made copy for you. Please return from my Frank file. Sorry.

Dear Jim,

4/17/75

Here is the letter I wrote a friend at NBC after our conversation. If and when I hear I'll be in touch. There are other such things. I do think the lawyers should appear not to be part until the crucial time, which is setting the guidelines and asking what ground rules be agreed to. There are other, similar things to be done. There is time.

Yesterday I got another cassette from Jerry. Didn't get a chance to listen to it until bed-time. I was then inhibited because Wil said she'd like to and she promptly fell asleep sitting up, so I had to keep the volume low. I expected it. It is a dub of Frank's appearance on WMAQ-TV, Chicago, the Kup show. Typically, Jerry included no note, so I expected to have to dub it for James. At the end, where he has a letter for me, Jerry says he made a dub and sent it to James c/o the warden, which may or may not get it forwarded to you. However, having made the dub, I'm holding it for you. I think when you have time you should listen to the Frank and to Jerry, who adds to what I got from him in the phone conversation I reported. My pressure has worked and now we are confronted with a question of timing in applying more and with whether you should now start doing a little of what I have been doing, only if you do, I think it should appear to be gentler than I have been.

In all of this Jerry appears a bit more tractible. He is friendly, shows no resentment at my pressures. He went to see Larry, as I'd suggested. They downed a few beers together and Jerry did what it takes with Jerry, said let me know when you want something in the paper. He also discussed Rife.

Jerry said he dubbed a cassette at WMAQ. Now ordinarily they would have had a videotape from which they'd have taken sound reel-to-reel. One possibility is that they also made a sound tape in taping the show before airing or that someone on the staff did this or does it because of the frequently controversial nature of the show, to be ready for FCC requirements, etc. Anyway, this is an in-studio rather than off-air tape. Among the things this means is that the chatter during breaks for commercials is on the tape. They should be listened to carefully, more carefully than I could when tired, with the quality low. I'd have had to replay much and couldn't do that and dub at the same time. There are some things I'm sure Frank got from Eric that I do not remember from the James files, and I know they are what James told me, and do not remember from Eric's writings. Because some are readily provable and I did it with little trouble, this makes what Eric did much worse.

This may be James' lost route, and I meant this in the fullest sense, so I am more unhappy that he has charged ahead, foolishly and blindly, with Ryan. I have thought of an out if you and Bud don't come up with one by talking to Ryan.

Jerry makes alliterical reference to what he told me and then was apprehensive about having told me. He is rightly concerned about what he doesn't understand we won't do, let James believe that Jerry told us anything. He is right in fearing that if James learns he has said anything James will get more paranoid about trusting anyone. Maybe Jerry isn't satisfied that I had from the first considered this one of the possibilities, as specifically as you know. In time, I'll reassure Jerry, whenever I have time for a letter that won't take time from the things that are still accumulating here. Listen to the part of the tape addressed to me, about the middle of the second side, which does not run to the end. The first seems to say don't pressure James at all until we are past the court of appeals and then not to do it too hard, inferentially before the court of appeals. This all seems to be based on a somewhat longer than usual letter from James, two typed pages. That Jerry got any letter is indicative of James having this on his mind. It also means that James knew Jerry's plans in detail, for Jerry is at a temporary address in West Chicago, the same one he used a year ago until he got situated. While my hunch is that if you now take up where I left off and do it in legal mumbo-jumbo it will work, I think we should discuss this before you go down again.

I think Frank referred to personal conversation with the judges in this case. Didn't know that, if true. Could have included Battle because Frank was under contract long before ministerial. His book was accurately described immediately after it in a story I have.

cont,

Pertin Connellan