

Dear Jim,

9/7/74

In reading that farout stuff of Haile's on "It's going to be like/a travelling circus" when he uses his alleged authority to be present on discovery inspections I regret even more this crazy stuff of Bob's, which offsets what that kind of stuff should do ~~him~~ to the judge.

In reading this Kennesaw story of 8/27/74 I find myself thinking all over again that this guy has stuff loose somewhere to never say anything any more responsible in all his many newspaper appearances.

That he would pull this kid stuff makes no sense. That someone in his office wouldn't shut him up also makes no sense.

Maybe Jimmy is right, he is trying to emulate Foreman ~~is~~ but doesn't have it.

One of the obvious conclusions any lawyer ought to think any judge would draw from these silly statements is that Haile recognizes he has no case and instead intends to try it on the other side.

However, this line about travelling circuses from Frognore to L.A. reminds me of a story I tell on the chance you think you might want to have this travelling-circus line ready for instant use in court.

I think you heard Sammie Abbott reminisce over a show I did with supposedly the toughest in the business, Long John Nebel. His impartial panel was Victor Laszlo and Kevin O'Daugherty. It was loaded. And unskillful with Laszlo. I saw him winding up, as he always made seeing and understanding possible, with what he intended as a killer, "Were you ever in Dallas, 'Dr. Weisberg?" I looked at him innocently for a moment and said, approximately, "I've been wonder^{ing} all night, 'r. Laszlo, if you marked up my book in red, as I can see, while you were playing games of it you don't understand English. My book is about the Warren Report. That was in Washington, remember? Now, why don't you ask me if I have ever been in Washington?" He didn't know what in the hell to say. Single as it is it through them all off pace. I drove them crazy with some polite, often laughing reference to Dallas. It got to Long John, who was a real pro and as hasty and as far to the right as possible. He'd fluff a commercial and I'd say loud enough for the mikes to pick up "Been spending too much time in Dallas?"

It was rough for a while but long before this I was playing with them. The secret was to let them abuse me long enough to deliver the audience and then move in quickly and sharply. From the moment I did this there was no real problem with the show or handling the gangup. Not that a show is a court. But they popped out on me 3:30 into the 5:00 hours the show was to have gone. They just ended it without even saying good night or go to hell to me on the air. And these were supposed to be the terrors, too.

So, Haile is going to be a bad guy in court, I think. And I think the judge is not going to like it. You might want to ask when he pulls something bad if he's been on the travelling circus to Frognore. The judge will get it. ~~but~~ Haile will. I think it could be good to help him blow in court and I think it will not be impossible.

The reporters will catch and maybe laugh. That may be enough to throw Henry.

It is not easy to ridicule when it is justified in court without running some risk with a judge. In this case I think McRae will enjoy it. Especially if there is any discovery. If there is not you might want to apologize to Haile that the situation did not develop when the State of Tenn. would send him joyriding from Frognore to LA; from Cambridge to Florida. But he did manage to get his wife to Washington. It is gentle, pointed, relevant to his cracks, and I'll bet you he billed the office for the transportation so he could have a vacation.

The Commercial-Appeal 8/28 says what I didn't remember, if I knew, that Thompson offered Foreman all his files and couldn't give them away, then forced them on Stanton, who was defense counsel. This means we have to go over those files with great care. They will show serious stuff that won't be like the Beauides stuff that may well have point but will not as likely influence McRae. If there is one solid legitimate lead in the we're home clear on them. Foreman then has trouble, with Haile.

That deposition stuff of Foreman's is great. He is work^{ing} so much he doesn't need

any more money. Wow! That, if you didn't know it earlier, is enough to assure he'll never show. To be asked about that and is it true that he told the press he owns 50 empty houses and uses them for storage and then the question, if you don't need more money why did you take the last possibility Ray had of getting a single penny. A little of this and hand him the Singleton decision and at the end does he store say gold fillings in those "empty" houses?

He won't show but he ready and this, aside from fact, is the way to handle him if he does, I think, psych him out. He isn't used to being on the other end and being treated as he treats. He is already uptight. I'd have a few pieces of paper to justify Foreman-esque questions.

The UPI 8/30 story on the transcripts does not include what I was told is in the copy that reached the San Diego Union. The local paper could have put it out but if the exculpatory stuff was omitted by UPI for its state customers, that would be worth knowing.

Your notes on Frank on WSEX: one of the reasons I earlier noted the Long John show with Frank is because on it Frank said the only possible conspiracies against King were Castroite or Chinese.

Great stuff in all the shows if Frank shows or there is a civil suit. Ray wanted a conspiracy story to make the book into a movie when the contract denied him a penny in perpetuity if it did make a million?

Only in a civil suit will he show. Then this great stuff about Ray refusing to see Bevel, he says Foreman told him, and a picture of Bevel at the jail being interviewed after he saw Ray (I think with Foreman).

Head-to-head Frank will go to pieces. He couldn't sit take it in St. Louis with the handicaps I had that only began with Stoner and Jerry on the show. He did shut up and said he would simply because there was nothing he could say. Can't do that in court. The judge says he controls the marbles. In Boston he did go to pieces. Jerry Williams, probably an old friend, saved him. You should hear my phone taps, when the producer came on the phone after the show was over. (Generally they just hang up in the studio.) He described it to me. Frank on the stand would be something! Especially with the crap in the book and on tape. It sure would be nice if someone interviewed him now that he has refused to supply court-ordered evidence!

The petition for a writ of mandamus doesn't seem to be such. If it makes any difference, I think McRae will not like some of it. The majority of the circuit should not welcome his three parts of 5 on pp. 3 and 4. His 1. on p. 5 defeats himself, I think. It says discovery is warranted and he hasn't a single word in opposition. This magnifies his omission cited above, more because the language is that of the Supreme Court. The crack about Ray manufacturing when he has the documentary proof from discovery is silly after McRae clobbered him on his claim that Ray would perjure himself.

If there is any argument, he talks about delaying the trial (p.6) It would be appropriate to recall that it is 5 1/2 years since Ray asked for one with all the delay by the State.

He has the lie that we said Hanes coerced the guilty plea on p. 8. I think this suggests how it got into the papers.

In everything he does he says he knows he is in bad shape or he is an admitted stupidity.