

4/8/71

Dear Flo,

Before I get too busy and forget, I must write for two things:

First to, thank you for the fine thing you did for me and to say what I know you realize, how much I appreciate it.

There is little wall space in my office. What now hangs on the wall are four things: four of my copyrights, a calendar, what was once the only personally-owned autographed picture of Mkrumah (one me by his ambassador - a part of my life and activity little known), and an original etching of Paul Robeson, who I knew in the 30s.

The only empty space, windows, shelves and filing cabinets taking up all the remaining space, is behind the door. But when I can catch up on the large accumulation due to my absence (and I had to be away yesterday again) I will, with joy and pride, hang the Media Workshop award there until I can somehow conceive a better place.

The second thing is a request. Will you please give my thanks to the woman, unknown to me, who did the beautiful job of preparing the award. She must be either a professional or a very gifted amateur, for I've seen so many not nearly as attractive.

While I was in NYC this last trip, with all the other things, I was still able to carry my investigations forward, I think in a significantly important way. It may be difficult for you as a lawyer to understand how I can investigate a Memphis crime in New York, but I did, as eventually you'll learn. I have a notion you regard this as a "free James Earl Ray" operation. It is not, in any sense. The closest accurate concept along those lines is "arty James Earl Ray". That is the way we can accomplish a number of I think legitimate and necessary objectives: force a solution to the crime, do what can be done to reduce the prospects of similar crimes, and expose St. Edgar the Indispensable for what he is.

I think that it is a legitimate thing for me to send Angela Davis a copy of the book for her to study so she can use what it contains for her defense. Inherent in it, as the title suggests, ~~the~~ is the methodology of framing. I understand she is cut off from everything like this, as others are and have been. But I also think that the possibility of her using it in helping with her own defense cuts it in a different category. I'd like to do this, at least try it, if you agree. If you do, can you tell me how to address her? And if the authorities do not let her have it, I'd like to try and make an issue of it. In so doing, if they refuse, I think we may add part of a different dimension to the nature of her confinement and treatment. If you disagree, I will not do it.

Again, my thanks. I hope we are together again soon, and with the impossible, a bit of relaxed time for communication.

Best regards,