

4/2/69

Dear John,

Louis Ivon has finally returned my rifle. Today I took it to the gunsmith to get the sight mounted.

I then discovered that whereas, from what I hear, the military ammo is getting very scarce, he had perhaps 75-100 rounds in a small bin. I bought all of it so that if it is really scarce, those of my brethren whose work requires that and not the Norma can, for the essential, have a few rounds. If not, I'll use them from time to time. Of this supply, I have already used a dozen rounds for the work I want to do, which does not mean firing. I'm having six disarmed and the bullets put back and six with the bullets left out.

The Norma is 10 cents a round here. This is nine.

If you by any chance have a 30.06 and can get a Peters soft-nosed bullet, I'd sure like to have a couple fired into a dead dog or something in reasonable approximation of the Kind murder, where the bullet is said to have entered the right cheek-jaw, severed the spine and lodged in the back there. My own hunch is that the original bullet would be so mutilated there'd be little possibility of positive rifle identification.

With your skill and knowledge in pathology and ballistics/weaponry and what I know, with any reasonable competent lawyer cross examining for the defense, I do not believe Ray would be convicted - based on what I read of the "evidence" in the transcript of the minitrial. In the summer I wrote a book dealing with this. It says he is not the murdered. With all the pleas of guilt by his friends and the trial record, I still see no reason to change my beliefs.

Sincerely,