

C A 75-1996
EXHIBIT 17

Dear Jerry,

4/11/78

The clippings with yours of the Eth are interesting. There is a problem with all of this that I'll come to but they are interesting enough. I'm returning them herewith.

Now on Lane's getting all the religious leaders together and their current demands, on the face that seems good. However, there remains the question - why did they wait so long? Do you think it is just because they had to be asked by Lane? A black Congressman asked Jackson in 1971 and others did later. Why now and not before? Even if like Jimmy figures, it makes no difference if they serve their own interest if they also serve his, it is not going to be that simple, especially if Jimmy gets a trial. Although there is no real evidence against him all the idle talk and all those lie detector tests and the silly notions he and Lane have will sprawl Jimmy on his face, I wish it were not so. You know I am not saying this for the first time. I've seen nothing to make me think otherwise. Nothing, certainly, in these clippings or anything Lane or Jimmy have said that I've seen in the papers.

When Jimmy walks because college students voted for him to have a trial after listening to Lane's crap, that'll be the day. But you don't have to tell me what Lane can do with an audience - he swings them. Like he's conned you. Or when he walks with "race" as a witness - that, too, will be the day. Only a man who has as little interest in or knowledge of fact like Lane would dream of that. (She could have come out at any time, as I told you, but she had no place to go. This is no success for Lane - it was offered publicly more than five years ago because of what I did with a reporter.)

What I said above about the black ministers goes for the union. That was not overlooked, down there or up here.

On your appearance before the House assassins (Lane's other big deal) on the 17th with your friend - Jim, heard from John. He has been subpoenaed for that day, too. Now in driving up, check the road maps. I think you may be better off going up by the Shenandoah Valley (which is a beautiful drive anyway) and then taking US 15 from whatever that superhighway is. If you go to the east add you bypass Washington at Leesburg, Va., same thing. US 15 takes you to 7-8 minutes from here at Exit 6W inside Frederick. (If you come from Washington all the roads merge at Frederick and it is still the same thing.) At Exit 6W loop underneath the road you have just been on to the "Holiday Inn" you will see before you get to the exit. At that Holiday Inn turn right onto Baughman's Lane for about 5/8 mile, to a 4-way stop at Shobinstown Road. Turn left there and stay on Shobinstown Road for about 2 miles, to right after you start to go up the mountain, after you start to climb, maybe 4 city blocks, the first road is Old Receiver Road. Turn right for about .5 miles. You'll see my mailbox on the right but not the house, which is in the woods. Just follow the paved lane in. I won't be calling the Quality Capitol Inn for you or Oliver Patterson if you will be coming here first, but I'm glad to know where you'll be and the other name for that room. It is easy getting there from here, not much more than an hour and superhighway almost all the way - into Washington from here.

You are crazy about me and the FBI and them liking me or me them but I can't do anything about your kid notions so I won't try any more. But they did not kill King, whatever they may have done to him in the past. And this, too, will flatten Jimmy on his face.

Your speech on the Panama Canal on the steps of the Capitol will make Lane happy. It will help Jimmy, too. You'll see if you do it. I think you are blowing hard. Making it before the committee, if you do, will be making it without the press, as you'll see.

Glad you got to see Jimmy on the 3rd and 4th. When Lane files for a new trial in Memphis with a picture of the Laoul Jimmy identified I'll be interested in seeing who he is. Especially because Jimmy always insisted he'd never do this. Don't worry if you can't help the committee solve the crime - Lane will do it. It is true I look at the

bad side because the time comes when you have to face it. ...If Marc Lane is the only lawyer to run the case that is to cause you all held back when it might have helped to level with your defense. Generally speaking when the lawyer does not run the case the client pays for it in the end, as Jimmy has. ... anyway, I do appreciate your calling me your "soul brother." In time you'll learn that I have always been honest with you and haven't cared about saying what you want to hear.

You don't say how you found Jimmy but from what you say about him and me I guess he is hopeful. I hope his hopes are justified.

Sincerely,

Keith