

Oliver-

2/10/79

You wrote 2/4 about Jerry wanting you to do a thing with Able but did not until 6th. Came yesterday but no earlier chance to reply.

I'd heard of the incident before, in some respects exactly as you tell it and in some other than as you do.

If your recollection is perfect and you intend only total honesty there are some problems with your version and my belief is that you have nothing to gain by TV publicity on it and therefore ought not risk any other end.

If you do the show or interview I'd encourage only truthfulness, whatever the truth may be.

You ask what Jerry can have in mind. His, I think, can be almost anything, his own ideas or those of others like Lane or Jimmy.

They all have the strange notion that by propaganda against the FBI somehow Jimmy will be helped. In fact they are all nuts about this farout notion.

I've never heard from Able and don't expect to. He appears to be bedded with Lane. He did not bother to respond when I wrote and asked him for an audio tape of the "press conference" beats had you arrange for NYTimes and Tony Harro (who is no longer with that paper).

Remember also that this is the rating season. This is only partly like the better-known phrase, mating season. He'll do anything for a sensation for the ratings, I think. Be careful of that part, especially if it is filmed or taped in advance and can be edited.

Heard from Gerald Lloyd of Post-Dispatch yesterday. He'd read most or all of the file and wanted a little background on similar files. About you I told him to call you. He said he would. The one record I recall him mentioning was a general one that had no direct relationship to you. More or less HQ pressure to get more info and get more informants to get it, etc.

They are to have had a copy of it all made and sent to you and I told them I'd pay for it. They can have it done commercially in Washington for half of what it costs us and Bill now does not have the time. She does tax work for the same people every year, does no advertising and takes on only some of those who are recommended by those who are pleased with what she does for them. She is good at it and is conscientious so she stays more than busy enough with that and she enjoys it.

But if much time passes and you do not have a complete set of the records, including worksheets that constitute an inventory or a list and on which any exemptions claimed are noted let me know. I can also explain some of the possible exemptions. b1 is national security. b2 is solely of interest to the FBI, b7 and b7c are privacy. b7d is source protection or only source. b7e is secret method, etc. But if there is much that is withheld it is likely going to be b7c or d or maybe b2 with some of the file identifications.

If you can fill in any of the gaps please do it in writing because I'm too tied up in court work to go over the records when I get them back and this will be true for a while.

If there are parts you want to talk over, please be prepared to tape it so I can later go over the tape and can file it with the records.

Got a tape from Jerry yesterday but won't be able to listen to it except when I exercise, as probably my exercise for the next several days will be limited to. Bitter cold here and I've cleared the lane to snow as much as a really fine snow blower permits. Down to the ice and hardpacked. Had it clear and kept it clear except for drifting from strong winds. Unless there is more drifting until there is more snow no more of it. The lane is too icy in too many spots for safe walking other than from real need. The snow blower is heavy enough to hold me when I slip, / as I did several times today. It has been a great investment. Sincerely, Arnold

2/4/79

Harold-

I spoke to Jerry Ray last Thurs or so and he wants me to get in touch with John Dobb at (KSD-TV) channel 5 here in St. Louis to give him "details" of an incident which happened in '72 or '73 here in St. Louis

The incident involved me and Jerry one evening when Jerry was in St. Louis staying with his sister. We had been drinking (heavily) all evening at my house in Black Jack.

late - I would stay 11:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M. -

we left my house to take Jerry back to his sister's house, at that time, in Maplewood, Mo.

We were a few miles from the sister's house when two males (ages 20-25) started picking a fight with us while we were heading south on McLanahan Rd. To avoid a confrontation - we turned right on a street of happen to pick because of proximity. It turned out that this particular street was a deadend. The car had followed us down the street. We stopped of course at the end of the street and the car pulled in behind us and made it impossible to back up.

The two guys got out of the car and came up to ours and beat the hell out of us. Jerry had to have 9 stitches across his forehead - still visible today - and received medical attention at St Mary's hospital several blocks ago. Neither one of us ever even was able to get out of the car. It happened so fast and caught us completely off guard & pretty drunk. My legs were in very bad shape from the guy slamming my door on them as I would try to get out. Jerry's injury was caused by a chain or like object.

Jerry says now that at that time he was missing some secret documents pertaining to King's murder and that now that he is aware of my F.B.I. work - he thinks I took them, or that the assailants took them and were in fact F.B.I. operatives.

John Auble wants to do an exclusive about the story with me "admitting" that the beating up, etc., was a cover for getting the documents. Jerry is trying to talk me into doing this almost every time we have talked since the news conference (Several times at most) BUT

1. If F.B.I. did do it - I didn't and still don't know
2. I was beaten up also.
3. Jerry or me were never out of the car.
4. I don't have any idea as to why or who did it.

Question → Does Jerry really think it was a set up?
 or Does Jerry want another example of government harassment - True or not.
 or Does John Auble want to "BIG HEADLINE"

Alie