

11/15/74

Dear Jim,

By the time my dentist spent an hour and a half fitting and cementing a new crown and I went to the optician, who put new lenses in my frames and Jim and I met to go to the Reporters' Committee for Freedom of the Press with a copy of the new book (their issue closed today) and we got to Bud's, he had an appointment with a client in about 10 minutes so there was little time to discuss what you have in mind with him.

I did explain that the interview is to be limited to the conditions of his confinement or how it feels to live in solitary for five years plus what you later asked, some of what he covered in his testimony but nothing not testified to. On the latter I told him that I had said the questions would have to be gone over in advance and that the lawyers would undoubtedly have to insist on final approval because what might not be apparent as a jeopardy to Ray to a layman might appear otherwise to his counsel.

We did not have time to explore the potential nor the impact this could have on the treatment and rights of other political prisoners. Or other considerations I regard as important. I am aware of persons stuff that is appearing, has appeared and undoubtedly will appear as part of the State's long campaign of the dirtiest propaganda. WPI's copy, for example, of which I have incomplete wire copy only.

Bud asked me the financial arrangements and I told him there were none but that I believed there would be some help to the defense. This made him apprehensive that we would be criticized for doing what we complain against with earlier counsel. We did not have time to explore this either. The concern is legitimate but I think would work out as no real problem if and when there is time to consider it.

Just before Bud left to meet with the client who had been waiting for him for some time he did say that he would like to see from you in writing what you have in mind. If and when you do this, I would suggest carbons to Jim and me so that when we do get together each of us will know what you have said and each will have had some time to consider it.

Unfortunately I also did not have time to really think an approach through. I did when we spoke in Memphis and I believe it is the best still. Those other and proper aspects in which you have expressed indefinite interest I believe are incidental to it, relevant and not in any sense objectionable. If handled in this manner I believe Bud might find reassurance in it.

I have to be in Washington again a week from today, the 22nd, for my annual checkup. Perhaps Bud and I may both have some time to discuss this further then.

Bud's date on the new book is that same day, the 22nd. Were it keyed to the anniversary I'd never have pub date and my annual physical the same day. Rather is the timing based on the plans for the Congressional effort to override Ford's veto of the amendments to the Freedom of Information law.

cc: BF, JL

Best regards,