

Dear Jerry,

7/29/80

Your tape and a letter from John came yesterday. I read his letter and replied right away. I listened to your tape as I was going to and from the lab for my regular blood test. As you suggest, I'll wait until the clips you said you were sending come.

However, I do want to let you know that there is something wrong with his mail to me, too. He wrote his letter on the 22d. It was not postmarked until the 25th.

There is no doubt that they are paying close attention to his mail so I was careful not to say anything except in answer to questions he asked me. He made comment and observations, like what you said about LaRue, but I didn't ask him any questions about that or the other strange things he mentioned.

If you go ~~into~~ there for the trial, as you say you will, and spout off the kind of stuff you say you will, you'll guarantee his conviction. The more you goddamn the FBI the more you'll convince people that all of you are lawless and the more you spout any racism the more you'll convince others that all of you were capable of the King job and probably were guilty.

Leave John's defense to him and his lawyer. If it is Mark you know he doesn't need any help with the press or any kind of propaganda. He's a real expert in those ~~exp~~ departments and all you can do is make problems or worse.

That the FBI lied in other cases in the press will do no good. So did you, often and over and over again. If it will do any good in court, leave that to the lawyer. Everybody knows the FBI lies and everybody is afraid of that. I prove it in court in case after case and nothing happens to them. The papers could not care less. They figure it is old news, not new. And the judges are yellow.

It is not a question of what you think or what you think other people will think after they hear what you have to say. The questions will be decided in court and there is no sense in creating the kind of bad press you'll create by your usual line. Look that the Star did to you. That is not the first time but you never learn.

If you don't keep your mouth shut and stay out of it you'll get the gate locked on John. If they framed up on him, nothing you say will or can prove it but a lawyer can in court, but what you say can easily prejudice jurors and the judge. So keep your mouth shut and keep a low profile.

Sure the FBI asked John about you. Their public statements as much as said they would because they were trying to show a Jordan M.O. like they claim there was in the King case and the bank robberies. It may have been silly, but they did get mileage out of it for a while. They knew better. Their only purpose was to promote themselves and make it seem like they were doing something in the Jordan case, where they were lost, and to create prejudice against John and Jimmy. So keep your big mouth shut and stop helping them, as you did with the Star.

Who is the Middleton they asked about?

The clippings came today. Thanks. One story says they found bank wrappers in the bag John had and a gun was also in it. John says they claim they have something with his writing, too. Doesn't look good. If they've framed it, they've done a good job with that kind of evidence. I'm sure sorry he didn't get back to Dismas House because he had only a short time to parole. He probably figured that they'd give him no peace but I'm inclined to think they'd have left him alone once HSCA was over with.

Sincerely,