

9/10/73

Dear Diane,

Seems like my guess wasn't as far out as I thought. The difference between Richard and Martin is not helpful to you, the way things work. For Martin you are right to have concern about the character of representation that might be available. However, you should bear in mind an old lawyers' maxim that experience proves sound, he who has himself for a client has a fool for a client. One you know better is that pride goeth before the fall. Don't fall. This is a pretty deep business, one not to be addressed in terms of ego or under the influence of emotion.

In order to reply promptly, I'll have less time than I should. Basically, your right to represent yourself rests in the ~~Sixth~~^{Sixth} Amendment, which guarantees counsel of choice. As I understand the ways the courts have held, you have to do this before trial, probably by a motion. I also understand that it is common practice for courts to appoint counsel nonetheless, on the ground that the non-lawyer can't adequately safeguard or even understand his own rights. In the recent VVAW case, in Gainesville, Florida, the judge did this and the accused simply ignored court-appointed counsel, refusing to cooperate in any way. This is about the limit of what I can say in response to your question. It isn't my field and I'm not a lawyer. I do, however, feel you are in a bad situation, one in which you can't be dispassionate, and that you may be making a serious mistake. Yet there is so much I don't know I'm limited in what I can say.

So, all I can really do is remind you about the pointlessness of closing barn doors after the horse has left. There are so many things you should have told me and didn't. You still haven't told me much about this deal. Some of it stretches a willingness to believe, like how much those games of which I know enough will take. I don't know enough to guess what could be relevant. I do remember the Nikon F and remember a Pine Streeter who tried to buy it. He is in California now. Or was when last I heard from him, some time ago.

Knowing as little as I do, all I can do is urge extreme caution. When we are personally involved our judgement is never dispassionate. I spare you a review of your judgements of the past and emphasize what applies to all, including experienced lawyers. Look how many the giant has, for one example. As a generality it is very unsafe. As a generality, technicalities that would be enough to walk the accused can go unrecognized. As a generality, cases are won and lost on technicalities. The law is a very technical thing. Lawyers have seen to it.

Knowing as little as I do and how fruitless earlier efforts to learn have been, I guess there is little else I can now do except to wish you well. Which I do.

Your spirits seem to be holding up. That is good. Keep me posted.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

(I type the name not as a formality but in case the letter is censored, so the censor will know who wrote it.)

①

Night of the 5th

Dear Friends in the Free:

Greetings from a hard core radical and ardent admirer all rolled up into one - me.

I'll be going to State Pen it looks like maybe and I don't mean the Univ. of Penn. either. Oh! I expect to learn a lot just the same though.

Since I got my hair cut & frosted the D.A. is all up tight that his one witness won't be able to identify me. My heart bleeds for him pure fcees. (I cleaned up my language for Lil's benefit.)

When they asked me what my aliases were - I told them - Occupant and Resident and when they asked me (NOT IF BUT) why I killed Martin Siverson, I told them to dig ~~up~~ him up and ask him, that I wasn't the damned yellow pages nor Jack the Ripper in drag. I also vomited all over this one razor back oinking Detective who pulled out his pistol to shoot me but the safety was on and it just clicked so he and his buddies just made life miserable for me for 4 days & nights solid non-stop. I should've plead guilty to rape even after all that - but instead just spit in their faces leaving a bunch of stupid head conking pigs running around in circles trying to hang me and a mad D.A. - mad or even totally infuriated would be putting it mildly. Sooooo..... I'm not exactly loved by the Houston Gestapo - can you dig what I'll be fighting against in court in 4 1/2 weeks. The fact that my bond is \$160,000.00 for possession of a stolen camera which isn't on the hot list 'cause it really ain't stolen is just considered irrelevant. Even if they get the real evidence they want & need to try me for murder - they can't hang me because when you kill a S.O.B. after he runs a knife through your kneecap - well he was aiming for my heart but I did a fine fit sa kick (over)

②

to knock it out of his hand and caught it through the knee-long storey - and long fend - but it ended up with me pedaling a 10 speed bike 14 blocks with a knife sticking out of my leg and having to jump 3 stories down through a plate glass window to escape the law - which I did incidentally but that window put a nasty gash under my other knee requiring 11 stitches and I got busted 5 weeks later when I went to sell my Nikon F to get some coins to crawl back under my rock with. Even Holden never had it so rough. Self defense I call it - but a lot of pressure, heat + hate against me by Marty's employers is what it really is all about, but the head cockering badges don't care as they want personal vengeance anyway.

I'm going to try to get this poor bewildered and baffled Judge to let me defend myself + here's where I ask your help: I need all the legal data constitutional references and etc. to recite at my arraignment where a person is legally able to represent themselves in a court (choke) court of law. I can handle my trial but need the judge to be convinced with legal crap to back me up to let me be my own defense counsel. I'd hate to think of what one of THEIR court appointed attorneys would do to me and no other lawyer even wants to handle my case for no amount of money. I'm counting on licking their stupidity by anger with my intelligent rationale + calmness and getting this shit blown off completely and then taking it into Federal court and charging Guess who all who with kidnapping + attempted kidnapping + then going to law school where I've already been accepted. Can you dig it?

③

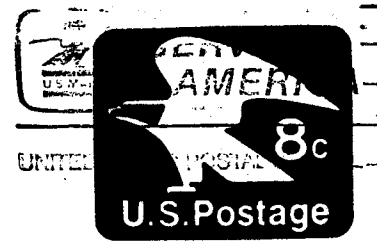
Anyway I need a good lot of data to act in my own defense with. I've heard you can but send me the quotes of what it actually says and where it is written. O.K.? It'll have to be from good resources as it's never been pulled off before here in Houston.

My mail is not censored and the wabrows are cool and on my side.

And DO WRITE ON pal & fan from the free. I think I might be able to pull this one off.

Yours Truly
dipshit Dillinger

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