

Dear Diane,

2/28/73

You are doing me a favor: hosting me lunch. I've been on errands all morning, read your 10-page letter dated 2/23 and postmarked 2/24 when I got it about 9 o'clock, and in the almost four hours since ~~it~~ and your last night's call (117 minutes- \$35!) have been on my mind. This letter was numbered 11.

If I don't have time to come back to it, let me say at the outset that what you say about your parents I have no trouble believing from the one conversation I had with your father and one Tommy had with your mother when I was on the extension listening. Obviously, unless you should at some point say otherwise, we'll keep all of that confidential. In recent years I've had to give much thought to the workings of the mind. In terms of what I think I've come to know and understand, I also see nothing unreasonable about your conjectures and interpretations. It all makes sense and is credible.

Let me first make some practical suggestions. I think you should, as soon as it is possible, make two sets of copies of all these letters, from them and about them. Keep the originals, send me one set that I'll keep confidential and have another set for local deposit, with Mrs. Bernstein if she seems willing and trustworthy, or with someone in whom you feel you can have confidence. Keep the originals with you. If you are not in the hospital by the time you get this, be certain that the hospital keeps them securely and if possible in a safe or locked place. They may be very important and I want you to take no chances. I want to study them only in your interest. If I am not anxious to take that much time, I think that my doing it can serve your interest and that the time may come when it may turn out to be essential.

You were quite excited when you phoned last night. You changed, perceptibly, as we talked, even the tone and sound of your voice. You say you can trust me and do. I think you sure as hell have cause to. So, do it. You have kept knowledge from me that it now serves your interest for me to have. The consequence is that particularly with the limitations now imposed upon me, I am limited, as I have told you, first in my understanding and then in what I could have done. Two examples are your parents and Jewishness. If you had told me only their attitude toward your insisting on remaining Jewish (and hadn't given me all that b.s. in the past about your father) I could have done things by mail in response to your first letter from Houston. I will make an effort tomorrow and will let you know what if anything there is to know. Your being secretive when you had to know the degree to which you could trust me imposes a very considerable handicap in the present crunch. My best and most promising efforts are now ruled out by time alone.

So, if there is anything else you think I should know, please waste no time in laying it on me. Good or bad, and sometimes it is more important to know the bad, especially when it may come up in a criminal case.

I'll be rambling and disconnected in what follows because I haven't time to organize my thoughts and suggestions. If there is anything about which you have doubt and there is no time to consult, ask yourself, can I trust his judgement on this? Also, is his judgement likely to be better than mine? Here your thoughts should also take into consideration what I may not know, because ignorance may influence my judgement. Or, I am not saying that I can't be wrong. I may be. But don't form a snap judgement if there is no urgent need to. Stop and think, as dispassionately as you can. Be aware that in your circumstances detaching yourself from your urgent problems may not be easy. It generally is never easy for those involved in problems to take a look at them from anywhere other than too close.

One of your problems, in the overall, will be a lack of political experience and understanding. I do not mean this in the party sense.

Be careful in any contact with the judge not to compromise him. As I told you, I regard the decision to which I referred as a real contribution to man's freedom and the enjoyment of his rights. I have disagreed with other of his decisions, but I regard him as a conscientious man and in his own lights an honorable one. However, because he is a judge, he can be compromised, so if you see him, because you do not want to make it impossible for him to do things, be sure to tell him to tell you if you are getting into things he should not hear from one side alone. If he then at any time says you should not say anything about anything, DON'T. He can be very important to you. Do not force him to disqualify himself. Some of the others down there are finks, believe me. I know.

I want you to STOP all this talk and thinking about getting even, as with Scott. That is not your need. You need is to look out exclusively for your own interests, beginning with your most immediate ones. As I see these, they are medical and legal. The pursuit of vengeance may be at your cost. It does you no good to get even with somebody and if it dilutes what you can do to look out for yourself it hurts you more than it can ever do you good to hurt someone else. It is never a useful thing to hurt someone else just because they have hurt you. If you have no choice but to hurt them in doing what your own interest requires, that is another matter. But get out of your mind all thoughts of vengeance per se or you will pay for it.

There is another reason. You must keep you mind as uncluttered as possible. It is past time to drip that kid stuff about I'll get you for this. There is a limit to what any one person can do. Save all your energy and thoughts for what can help you, not for hurting anyone else. Besides, you are in enough trouble without new and legitimate charges. Even harrasment can lead to more charges. You've got enough without anything like that. Above all, don't start playing these kinds of immature games with a lawyer.

If you feel you can trust Mrs. Bernstein or anyone else, tell them about me, how to get in touch with me, and tell me that you trust them and how to get in touch with them. Let us not assume an emergency, but at the same time let us be prepared should there be one, medical or legal. Or any other kind.

BE CAREFUL back in La. If you have no place to store your stuff in Houston by the time you are there, think through what I told you about using a commercial mover, who can store at nominal charge and using handbags for your immediate needs, like clothes. Even if you get quarters, don't take the heavy stuff like the books, etc., until after hospitalization and some kind of job security. Jeff Parish is as corrupt as any place can be. ~~Parish~~ Parish presents other hazards. Jim is not, I think, one. You spoke and wrote about using Monk if you have to. For seasons I can't go into now, I am not at all sure this would be good. He seems not to have done for you what I asked of him and he borrowed some official documents from me that he promised to return and didn't. He then failed to respond to a number of letters. I had someone speak to him and still silence. With this record, I think you should be careful. But, you will need a good and dependable lawyer. I can't with certainty say who this can be, but in an emergency I can recommend.

The complications in the lives of the feebies you may think you can trust are something of which I think you have little awareness. On this basis alone I would encourage you to do nothing in that direction that can be avoided, or keep them off the hook, or don't bet yourself snagged without urgent need. They'll look out for themselves before they do for you. They really have no choice.

The card does seem to be an important thing, but run no risks for it because it can be taken care of in other ways, as in expert testimony.

I went out of my way not to push you for names and not to ask details about tapes to which you referred just to play it safe. These are details you should give me, as soon as possible. Here I am looking out for your interest and for mine. Here they can't be separated. You gave me a precise enough description of one of my phone conversations. In time I'll tell you the rest. It was accurate, so this makes what you said credible. However, don't let anyone tell you there was naything improper in that or anything related to it. I don't consciously do improper things, as I think you know. You did describe me as "righteous". I try to be. We can all slip, but I'm confident I didn't ~~be~~ there. So, ~~xxx~~ please spell all that stuff out, in as much detail as you can. As soon as you can.

If you have to leave where you are, be sure to leave a forwarding address and then tell me, which will be faster than forwarding. Forwarding keeps letters from being returned.

I've told you that you do not understand my relationship with Jim. Here I add only that were I to seek to intercede for you by mail, it would probably be ignored. If I tried to phone him I'd probably not get through. It might be different were I there, depending on many things, including my purposes. So, if I think there is no interest in you of any kind, I would not want you to think from what you heard that I have any real influence. We have disagreed too often and I have been too vehement. I don't think anyone every talked of wrote to him as I have and I'm sure he dislikes and resents it. He also knows I will

not consciously do what I think is wrong, does not like my attitude to the Shaw trial, and probably resents my refusing to stay there for it.

Try to order your priorities, first things first -and no self-indulgences, like getting even. I think medical and legal are first, quarters and job next, etc. If you are going to be hospitalized and don't know for how long, do you really need a place on which to pay rent with money you don't have while you are hospitalized (another one of my reasons for suggesting commercial movers with storage facilities-insured)?

If you are not absolutely certain about a N.O. lawyer, don't ask the judge can you recommend a good guy. First ask him if it is ok if you raise the question with him and if he says yes, they ask who he'd recommend.

If you can't get your own typewriter back with you, you can rent a portable. If you do this, do it with the option of buying. If your's is a good one and it will be some time before you can get it, you can get a new one today for \$40.00, not the best, and if you can, you might, with this in mind, go to a hock shop, Salvation Army, Goodwill industries. You can probably buy one that works for not much more than a couple of month's rental charge. If you are hospitalized for a while, you should have much use for it. It is faster and you should have and keep carbons.

You really need what you will be lucky to get, two Houston lawyers, one criminal and one civil. I think you have a very good civil case and filing it can have an influence on the criminal case. You have all sorts of cases, beginning with false arrest. I think there is little doubt that you were damaged, in more than one way. What this costs you in school and career is significant but relatively minor in the catalogue that any good civil lawyer would come up with.

If the bail bondsman gives you any trouble, I think he has already met the legal requirements for a charge against him of attempted rape, especially if you have a lawyer. Remember, I am not one.

I told you I'd heard our conversation. I am sorry to say she did not hear all of it. I knew she was still on the phone because I could hear the radio in it. I had asked her to listen, too, because I wanted her independent judgement. However, when I later tried to discuss parts of it with her, they were parts she did not hear. I do not know if she will have time to read your letter tonight. I hope she will. Unlike my public image, I am often too naive. Besides, two minds are better than one.

Once your immediate needs are taken care of as best you can, I think it is not only in your immediate interest but in mine separately, as we share the interest, for you to tell me the things you have avoided telling me in the past. I want to make the point that trust is a two-way thing, too. In the past, if I've been disappointed, I've made no big deal out of it. Now, when it is too late, I find I should know these things in your immediate interest and don't. There are now reasons of which you have no knowledge why it is likely important to me separately to know. When we are together I will spell all of this out and you will understand. You can assume that I will regard it as confidential.

I have no letter from Scott today. I sent you a copy of my letter to the sheriff. If I had thought I should of my letters to Acott I would have without your asking. However, there was and there remains in my mind the question of what could happen to papers you have in your possession right now, and I don't want you to have what could be misused against you. I said nothing bad about you. I have carbons filed for you. I made them as I wrote because you should have them. However, as I told you last night, for the lawyer to be ready to defend his client to the best of his ability, he has to be prepared for anything. He can't be caught flatfooted in court. I trusted Scott on your word. You really raved about him. Don't worry about what I told him and none of it was secret or personal. The same is my attitude toward the Bourne report. I have told you the essence of it but I don't think you should be carrying a copy around. There is less in it about you than anyone who knows you already knows and all it really says is that you helped Philip and also ran away from home. Their separate file on you I don't have. There is probably a part of this you may not understand. I established a relationship with both of Philip's parents before the father was killed and they gave me what I wanted of the papers they had. After the father was killed, you may remember that the promises made me were broken with regard to you. I wanted anyone in any way involved protected from hurt to the degree

possible. With Philip there was no affection as there was with you. So, I made completely proper arrangements that everyone agreed to in advance and made them with those whose words I felt I could accept. It turns out that this was the case. Philip had ignored three subpoenas when I was doublecrossed for the second time, because that also was not supposed to have happened. I raised hell when I heard of it and besides, when he had thumbed his nose, he limited their alternatives. They could have hurt him, but that would not have accomplished their purposes. I could - and did. First I went to see the family lawyer. I took copies of what was needed for Philip's protection and delivered them. I also took time to explain them. Thus it was clear to the lawyer that I really was looking out for Philip's interests and those of his family. I was. Also, whether or not he was gay, he had homosexual experiences, as you know. You were there, so you know what he told the Jeff people was a joke. I assume you heard what he told them, maybe you didn't. When he learned that he could trust me, he told me the truth. Now, in telling you of his being kidnapped, I didn't tell you the whole story on the phone. It lasted for a week, his family was involved and conned, as he was, and just because the actual thing was done by two locals doesn't mean it was done for locals or for them only. Catch? As best I could find out questioning him in the presence of two women - and you know his mother, who was one - you were one of the subjects of their interest, one of the two he regarded as major. I don't believe this. I believe it was the method of the interrogation, to deceive him about the subjects of most interest, so he would be unguarded where they were really interested. For the present you can forget about the nature of their interest in you. I will tell you all of it and the other one, which also can't survive analysis. AND, don't you DARE try to do anything about this now or learn anything about it from anyone but me. So, I think you can see I tried to be helpful. The same is true of Kerry. I didn't know about him what he forced me to learn about him or I'd never have made the effort. It was not anything like what he later wrote - and history proves I was right. He is both crazy and bad. But if he had nothing to hide, as I now have plenty of reason to believe he did, I could and would have helped him. He'd not have gotten into the trouble he did.

I got to rambling in my haste. One of the points I've been trying to make is that aside from what you have to have learned about me on your own and possibly in spite of what you may have been told about me, you have to know that you can trust me. I also have a record, of which I remind you of two things only: you did not get into the trouble you seemed to feel was imminent and Raul. He was really out to get you and had succeeded in injecting a real poison. He was also vicious in very personal ways. I have this all on tape with his permission. He controlled the machine and the tape shows I told him how to as it includes his permission. He even ratted on Philip. That, in fact, helped me to understand and to be helpful to Philip, who could have been hurt very badly. You realize that none of this has come out, so you have a separate basis for understanding my intentions.

I do hope this helps you see the ^{need} for informing me as fully as you can, with all the detail possible, and as soon as you can do it without cost to your more immediate interests. If you can borrow a tape recorder, that would be faster. What is less important, not to you and a matter of curiosity rather than importance to me, is the reference you made to real-estate deals. I knew of some but not all. And the other things that were questionable in that man's record would undoubtedly interest me more. My interest in him has no relationship to anything with which he was charged. Again, I'll tell you all of it whenever we are together if you really want to know. No big deal, no confidentiality. Nor is it criminal. Pieces on the edge of a puzzle.

Now, on getting together, there are two problems, time and coins. From now until a little after 4/15 Edl is working and working hard. She depends on me for transportation. Cabs from out in the country would be a big deal for us now. Your N.O. appeal is probably back burner for a while yet. And it looks like you are going to be fully occupied for a while and also don't have the fare. So, all I can say is that I am willing to be as helpful as I can be. You should begin by making it as possible as you can. Good luck!