

3/27/71

Dear Bud,

I'm really pooped, could hardly stay awake this a.m., haven't been able to sleep much for several nights (partly, if not entirely, because the foot awakens me), and there is much we should talk about. I think, as a non-lawyer may without legal merit, that you may find some values in these tapes. I have a dub of the first for you already. I think when you and Jim can do it, we should be able to go over it/them together, preferably here, where it can be without interruption and where, if we all keep still, we can make as many as four dubs at one time if you bring your machine.

These two trips to NYV convince me it is essential that we eschew any speculation and conjecture, under any circumstances, restrict our demand to a simple one, that the institutions of our society work, which is what I harp on to the extent that Bandy stole my lines for his second close!), and take what I regard as a reasonable chance that by means of it we may turn some of the lawyers and the media on. I have yet to speak to a single electronic reporter of a single show that is not friendly and interested, some greatly. This does not mean that their top brass will go for it, but it does give a reading. I even have one TV show lined up for after the summer break, a show going off the air for the summer this coming week! That is not disinterest, but the big, unspoken obstacle is the utter responsibility of the too many who have been heard too much. I tell you frankly that despite my liking for him personally, I discouraged any invitation to Sprague to be at the taping, fearing what he might do and say, with all the sincerity and best intentions in the world. I do not tell you this so you can tell him, for he believes his paranoia. I hope he has enough sense not to mention assassinations while he seeks a job.

I'll now see what I can do by phone. I'll be going back to NYC before long. I have in Texas lined up for \$ 5/3. I know only what 'til told me of having heard on the CBS evening news last night. I wasn't then home, and it is no more than that Ray had an interview despite your counselling against it. You should know that Jerry was there just before this and both wrote me of it. Either Ray is a nut or Jerry and Stoner pulled this one too, for Ray told me he wanted to be silent and didn't even want to go before the committee. Bon will confirm this, as will the tape. If this is not Stoner's insanity, I think we might begin to wonder who it is that has penetrated that asylum of the vile and the violent.

Hurriedly,