

Dear Dave,

1/23/78

There is but a single new element in what follows over what I have taken up with you before. Then there is the new one of a week ago, the Gesell decision. However, what Jim and I are seeing more and more clearly is the potential of the Gesell decision, one I expect to improve upon even before an antagonistic judge if that is next. And now I had a very encouraging call from Howard last night. It made Jim feel good when I told him today: Howard is willing but it must be made possible.

Your college publicity man John phoned today about the new records. If I had been feeling better I'd not have forgotten to suggest that he go back to the story I gave him 11/76, at the time of the planted Mexico story in the Post. He'd find today that the story that was put together without even benefit of the Post's story was precisely accurate. (My purpose would not have been to impress him but to enable him to impress others, for if the publicity man is any good his evaluations might influence academic judgements.)

I referred him to you and/or the library for a copy of the Post article. If he did anything good with his story perhaps it will help you make another effort under better external conditions. Under any circumstances any story should bring the whole thing back to mind.

Your people lost a lot of money or what the money would buy by not doing as I asked, giving Jim the forms their lawyers have drawn up for such situations so we can get this going under conditions of tax immunity. The government is getting the money that with the proper papers filled out could have been used for improving what I can get. There is a severe limit on what I can spend money for. I've exceeded it, unwisely if I face any emergency. And this calendar year it will be more acute.

We sold the small farm. This is the last year in which we will receive a payment on it, the last payment, due this month and always late. Between the taxes and the sums I owed and paid there was not all that much left. I've kept going for the past two years on this rather than holding it, minor an amount as it is not considered in terms of our situation, as an emergency fund, what we originally set it aside for.

The reason it will be more important this year is because I will be getting a relatively large sum from the Justice Department for the work I'm doing as their consultant. That will be taxable as will the payment on the property sale. On paper I'll have a good income this year. In fact much will go to the government in taxes.

Writing this to you is costing me at a rate of \$75.00 an hour, what they are paying me as their consultant. With the interruptions I've had today I've been able to put in, beginning at 6 a.m., only 4 hours and 44 minutes (coincidence in the numbers. It is what they actually total.)

The importance of being able to make it possible for Howard to become part of this I can't exaggerate. Including in terms of enhancing the value of what you'll get. It would also make it possible for him to be working with Jim on that end, which would enable an immeasurably greater amount to be done.

I know you've tried. I have some idea of the situation there. But there is now a changed situation and there must be some way of converting it to a good end.

We'll have a bit more soon in the Gesell hearing transcript. Jim forgot to order it but we'll do it tomorrow. Some of what Gesell said can be useful to you.

Just last week I had to buy 10 file cabinets - for you. If there is no more snow overnight I'll be using the first of them soon. The 60,000 pages can come tomorrow. I had the lane made passable today. The other cabinets are optimism. I'll fill them.

Hope you can think of a new angle and that it works. Best to all,