

Dear Dave,

6/7/77

I have two kinds of good news.

Jim and I believe we have won a major battle with the FBI in the King case. They called him today after what I think those to whom you devote yourself would call an intense session. They are ready to stipulate. Their stipulation begins with the assured delivery of even more than I have, the entire Memphis F.O. file of 120 volumes, by September 1. This is the way to understand it. There is to be a meeting ~~about~~ between Jim and them on Wednesday where it will be worked out.

In return I have offered other concessions to them on time for the rest of the records. I want to get the essential political ones as distinguished from the bedroom ones relating to the SCLC operations.

The judge has given them either 10 days or two weeks to decide on the remission of all costs, including xeroxing. If they refuse I will go to court and sue for it.

If it all goes well you had better recommend to the chancellor that the univ. consider buying an interest in an office-supply company or file-cabinet manufacturer. I little exaggeration, of course.

On the political files I might well want to arrange for direct delivery to you.

How does this sound to a political scientist/historian, a documentary treasure of that nature in addition?

The volume is exaggerated but not the content.

As of last week from the FBI alone I have about 20,000 pages, about 6,000 documents. This will give your archival, file and supply people a better idea of what most but not all the FBI HQ file means, especially if they put each individual record in a separate file folder. If you discuss this with them the in addition to the normal and abnormal markings on official records there is a serial number.

In addition there is a list on what is called "worksheets." They gave me to understand that I am the only one who has ever obtained these outside of a court order. I guess they knew I'd go for one if I didn't. (I've made them replace quite a few records where the xeroxing was poor.)

There is a separate treasure in three fat file folders of the FBI's clippings. Much.

If there is no remission of costs I'll have to scratch for the scratch as I think the kids put it.

Now it also happens that as soon as one of our air conditioners went bad I received an invitation to speak at Milton, Wisc. So instead of ~~replacing~~ repairing an old machine I'll probably replace it. So there will be no net from the appearance, and if there is it will go to FOIA work. But I will be near there. Jim says maybe 150-200 miles. He also says it is not far from Whitewater. So if Ruth could arrange a coinciding appearance there would be the saving of travel costs. If not and she has some kids she like me to be with for a little while and if there would be a point in you and I or also others getting together I would not return home from Milton. Instead I'd prolong the trip a bit. (Of course I'd be glad to speak anywhere else but unlike Jim's hope of Madison you say the nuts have that.)

Best to all,