

Junius V. Sr., 201 Lincoln Federal Bldg.,
Louisville, Ky. 40202
Dear Mr. Beaver,

12/22/77

To get you started here are Baird's letter, Gene Snyder as Joe Mc Carthy and a New York Times story, which gives an idea of the damage done your client(s) outside Louisville. I have other stories if you need them. I cannot immediately locate the Washington Post story. Probably misfiled or unfiled.

I forgot to tell you that these mad people of the assassins committee have persisted in these damages to your client after Baird was exposed in a Post story by George Lardner, Jr. In short, they knew that at the very best Baird was entirely undependable because he had changed his story radically.

I'll dig the rest of what you want out as soon as I can. Today is a bad day for it because an electrician did some work in my office and it is a mess.

If you do not mind my suggesting it, give this to the Courier Journal or all your local papers and the local wire services. You can fairly represent it as an entirely different story than Baird came up with two and a half years later, when the new version promised headlines and attention. I think you can get some attention with it, more if the BOP sees it and agrees its members have been hurt.

I also suggest that you say nothing about the tape and the transcript, unless you call upon the committee to release it in the interest of honesty and justice. They will not. If they do you'll find as I say there is no mention of the FBI in it. If they do not then you hold another press conference and release copies yourself.

I do not recall the content but have no reason to believe it is hurtful. You can check that for yourself. If it was you'd have been badgered with it by the committee.

News attention, I believe, is one of the way your clients can be helped because they have been damaged by prior news attention. You will also find that there is no more effective way of getting the insane ones of the committee off your back. Take the initiative. Go public with what they've done and expose and denounce it. They have a bad reputation and I believe you'll get a decent press if you do it right. If you can interest the BOP nationally, they probably have a public relations man who would help or even arrange the press treatment for you.

I have already defended the FBI against these charges. It was about the middle of June, on the Good Morning America show. It is sufficient for them to be blamed for their actual offenses.

So you will know I obtained the transcript of the tape from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act. It was not voluntary on their part. I am suing them. Jim Lesar is my lawyer in that suit, if he did not tell you. The best part is that the House assassins committee gave the tape to the FBI for it to transcribe. I think it would be better to keep the simple, non-secret matter secret in any public uses you make of the transcript. You can attribute it to me if you'd like. If I'm asked I'll probably say "no comment" on the source. There is nothing devious about my reason. The field in which I work is best with nuts and self-promoters and the most irresponsible of people some of whom are of good intention. I do not want any of my work misused and I do not want these nuts and those who are crooks to duplicate it prior to my writing the book I plan.

If I do not have time to remove the identifying marks they will give my source away if you display the total transcript. However, I have no objection to your letting reporters or editors you know have that information in confidence. Ditto for BOP. Unless this is what is termed "Not Recorded," there will be three numbers. The first is of two parts, 44-38861. That is the file from which it comes. The second will be the Serial Number within that file but it will be the third number. 44 represents Civil Rights in the file system.

Hope you were able to tell your clients in time for their holiday to be better.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg