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11/17/68

Mr. Bill Boxley
Office of the D.A.
New Orleans, La.

Dear Bill,

It was after midnight that I got home, after a taxing, four-week trip, exhausted, ill, and facing an enormous accumulation of mail. Before me I have the notes of this trip, in itself an enormous task, in the context of the other work I must do. That includes the reading to two completed manuscripts preparatory to final typing.

From this, I hope you will understand that in writing you before I do anything else, I attribute considerable significance to it.

We never did have a chance to get together, alone, during my recent visits to New Orleans. You indicated the desire, as I did. I held myself available every night I was there and each day I was in the office in the afternoon I waited until after it closed. Each day I went there lunch time I held that open, too.

As a consequence, there are many things we did not get a chance to discuss. This lack of internal communication has become a great problem and may be one of the greatest hazards we face. You saw one dramatic and costly, albeit harmless example in the case of the literature-distribution footage. It is not the only one. Others may not be harmless. There are other areas in which I have been working in which you also are. In some I have been able to tap dependable sources not accessible to you.

Now that you know I have been to Dallas, even if you know only some of those I have seen, you should be able to guess one of these subjects. It is one on which I understand you have been pushing hard and have Jim's ear and interest. On it I expect assistance from two of the highly-placed people with whom I had long meetings. Where we now need have questions, soon we should be in a position where the answers are definitive.

The invitation I accepted was of long standing. I delayed accepting it until I had reason to believe conditions would be most propitious. With some of those with whom I met (and this, as you realize, I did not have time to go into when we all met with Jim and he pooped out from illness) I had earlier been in fruitful correspondence. I waited until I would not be going hat in hand, for this is not the best way to ask help. Those of whom I asked it I first obligated to me. Then I sought their aid. I expect it, as I expect it to be dependable. The information I look forward to receiving should be the best possible in the areas in which I ask it.

As you also may have observed, I spend as little time in the office as I can when I am in New Orleans, for people will talk to me when they will not to officials, and there are still too many people to be talked to. In this area also my recent work has been fruitful. God knows when I'll be able to type memos on these interviews. However, by this unsafe medium, I still tell you that I have tapped several sources on the other side, those friendly with or associated with defendants and unfriendly witnesses.