

AUG 21 1972

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Dear Js,

I have sent you little or nothing of all the work I've had to do and never should have had to do on the Ray habeas corpus petition. I do enclose what I think can be comprehensible that I had to get up early this a.m. to do. The permeating incompetence is close to overwhelming. I surely will be remembered as the man never other than angry, and I surely am angry. I've got to do almost all the thinking and too much of the work, including the legal work, at precisely the time I have least time and at the cost of getting the few things done that need be on the master of the text of PM and of the compilation of the appendix. Meanwhile, these same bastards have set out on a systematic literary looting in which even violation of lawyer-client relationship is but a minor example.

But without knowing anything about the case, do you need more than the absence of ANY interview with the star witness when the public defender not only knew he was drunk to insensibility and actually represented him when he was put away for his alcoholism, allegedly, to undersand? Actually, the guy had to get another lawyer to get out of an unconstitutional sequestration arranged by the "public defender". Before seeing the list of his "investigation" I'd made this point and it isn't yet in the petition. Now that I see that what in more than three months is the total of his work and what it doesn't include that was even in the papers, the case is more superabundant, and how any lawyer could miss it I can't see. I could have done all the work they did in a week, all by myself, including the tying of what they call statement, usually about 2 graphs.

Even with this gross incompetence, they couldn't help stumbling on totally exculpatory evidence. I have that sentence of that statement and interviewed the witness myself, knowing he'd be reluctant. It took two hours to get him to the point where I dared ask him to affirm that sentence. Knowing he'd not let me take, I got Jim out of bed when we were in Memphis and he is my confirmation.

Can you imagine the real situation when after two years the investigator on the case doesn't yet have this file, a total of 30 pages only? On their copying machine this is less than 15 minutes work for one person-and they have two such machines and secretaries who often have nothing to do.

But I'm not merely justifying anger. Bud is rich. He doesn't really care about anything except his ego in this. So, I think in time they'll begin to wonder just what I might do if they don't shape up and get this done well and efficiently. Another example, by the way, is how I had to keep after him to concoct a clock-stopping mechanism. What I conceived apparently couldn't work, but the pressure I kept on him got him to come up with one that he thinks will. I'm a bit ashamed of not thinking of it myself since it is a move I wanted him to make more than a year ago. He should have then, but I sure am glad he didn't!

You may not agree with me on the culpability of the Gary stuff. I think it is beyond reasonable question, and it is perhaps the single most dismaying part of this whole mess for me, as I know it is for Lil, we had that feeling for him. I find myself wondering if I'd have gotten this if I'd gone after him with less vigor. It took him six weeks to screw himself tight enough to write at all. I am now hopeful that the vigor of this new blast may impel him to some new self-disclosing stupidity, for I really don't yet know what lies behind all of this. I have a reserve for him in the future, the nature of the letters he wrote me after this conscious and planned theft of what he already had from me but in confidence. These incompetents can't even get available inventories on their own! And Smith has been haunting the Archives, for example.

Meanwhile, not that they are nearing the zenith of where their own petard is ~~impelli~~ propelling them, they are beginning to express doubts even to me about the Wecht operation.

I have begun to structure a possible countermove in court, as you may have seen. Later today, before I can think of PM work, I'll have to try to carry this further. And I've so much grass to cut! (If I can make any mower work. Last time I was able to mow, I hit a stump and fear I bent the shaft on the last iterative mower)

Lil has decided to do a blanket for the 8-month black child adopted by a mixed pair of friends. I've asked another black friend, for Lil wants to surprise Walter and Rosa, for Uhuru in Swahili or something like it. Does SIM have any suggestions, with designs? Following her Ma was child'splay for Lil. Can't appropriately use this fantastic infant's name for it is French but after a German! (And he is also half white!). Best,

Joe