

12/4 I'd just sealed <sup>DEC 8 1972</sup> the previous 3/6 envelope to you and was going to go to bed a bit early for me when I decided to luxuriate a bit with a sip of Scotch, to help ease off on both aches and tensions. I spent pretty much of a liberating day outside, locusts in the morning, honeysuckle and poison in the afternoon. I've found I have some muscles I'd forgotten. If as a boy you ever pulled inch-thick honeysuckle from around tree-trunks when it climbs 50' you know what my arms and shoulders are complaining about...In the previous envelope is a carbon of my tonight's letter to Jimmy. I have no more than a couple of sheets of 3M that I must conserve, so I can't send a copy of his. He says he's never seen a better writ- believe me, he's seen more than both of us in a long lifetime will- and says Stoner has been putting bug-house ideas into John's head. If it is no more than bug-house, things are not as bad as they can be. Regardless, this represents what may be real progress, hence this separate note to signal the possibility. Stoner wasted much of James' possibilities before I got Bud in on the case, and there is no doubt at all that he put John away. There was no case against John at all. In this instance, it is not the consequence of anything I did. What I did in the past probably had much to do with his ~~real~~ realization. Stoner overdid it, and what I'd been saying to him for so long then clicked. From this reaction, it is fairly clear that if really racist, Jimmy had to be less so than the rest of the family. Bud and Jim have been afraid to say what we all think, so I have, with some bluntness. If it is premature to expect anything else, for the first time I can see the possibility. He'll at some point begin to wonder about his wisdom in trusting Stoner with what he has that he has not given me. This is the leads to the conspirators, the guys who did the jobs for which they set him up. I've talked about phone numbers only, but there is more. And he knows New Orleans better than he has pretended. I tripped him up on this and he knows it and knows I do and that I did it deliberately...If there was little reason to expect any attention to the filing of the petition, the heavy day at the Supreme Court diminished the slight chance. H