

FEB 18 1972

2/15/72-Bud and Jim - I have just given one reading to the Esquire story. I think you should analyze it with some care. I have reached tentative opinions I do not share with you because I think the entire matter may have an importance nobody has yet suggested to me. If I am correct, then I also think it important that independent thought not be influenced by any expression of opinion by me. I will later undertake to put some of these on paper so I will not forget them. I have written the editor of Esquire a short letter, enclosed. I also think that it would be best to engage in no loose talk about this until after it is thought through and conclusions reached or rejected. And I think it would be worth knowing more about Bynum Shaw, who I deduce is or was a southern-based reporter. III

2/15/72-Larry, I hope you can find the time to do what I have asked of Bud and Jim in the note above. If you sent me a copy of the piece, it has not yet reached me. I would, if you have not yet copied it, appreciate two copies so I can send one to an experienced friend who does not see Esquire and solicit his thought and beliefs after reading, if any. The timing, I suggest, is remarkable. And it is a shabby piece, not in any sense up to what, when I was familiar with it, I would have regarded as Esquire's standards. A copy of my letter to them is enclosed IV. Can you get me a quick rundown on the author? He cannot be a first-rate reporter and can never have been. Perhaps if nowhere else, if you know any of the people in Chicago who knew King and may have marched as Shaw describes, they may provide a lead. Thanks, III

Js, if, as I think I will after I rest my left hand for a while, I do make a few notes, unlike the others, whose independence I do not trust, I am not unwilling to send you a copy and I will send you a copy of the Esquire piece when I have one I have not marked up, as I did this in reading it. It may be no more than pot boiling on cheap fuel, but I think to assume nothing else would be unwise. The timing to which I referred in the note to the friend on the CDN includes but is not limited to the overdue decision in the Ray case, by the State Court of Criminal Appeals. And so you can be prepared to consider whether in timing alone there may be significance. Let me tell you in advance of making notes from recollection, which will not be complete (hence marking on reading), that my name is not mentioned, nor the book, nor reviews of it (and I have no doubt a submission was made to Esquire), and most incredible in this direction, at this late date Stoner is given as the only defense lawyer and he is not part of the defense legal representation. No reference to Bud. Livingstone, the appeals, the adverse lower-court decision. Yet he has interviewed Canale plus, Hanes, Stoner, and discloses correspondence with Huie. I think something(s) is (are) up.