

JUN 10 1972

Dear Larry (J's),

6/9/72

I'm writing on the Gervais doublecross of the feds. As I think of this and go over my files, one of the things of which I'd like to make better sense is the timing, the needless but apparent rush to get publicity circa 7/1/71. No grand jury had even been asked for. The publicity jeopardized the possibility of marking a conviction stack -- perhaps even getting a conviction or even getting the case to a jury. Why, then, this entirely unusual (as I see it) handling of that case, beginning with the involvement of Nixon, Mitchell and Hoover in the announcement and the great rush in making the charges, the morning after the last alleged payoff to Garrison? Can you recall any special administration need as of that time, even if it is only for favorable publicity? Was the condition of the war such, were there just some new statistics showing crime increasing under the Mitchellists? None of the defendants was about to flee. The one thing that has occurred to me is that they were afraid something might happen to Gervais, but I can't see why his oath would have had less legal standing from Canada or Finland. If they had fear that there would be some kind of leak from their own office, they could have moved him to whatever place they considered safe and then proceeded with a proper indictment in advance of the enormous and prejudicial publicity that I think can defeat the charges, even for the undoubted crooks. Or was this the real intent? Any ideas?

F. Lee Bailey is still in charge of the defense. There is a local lawyer, too. The man in Bailey's office doing the actual work is named Kadish. Best, HW

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