

Dear Jim,

12/28/73

I imagine the coverage of the Ray ploy will have attracted some attention out there and made you a bit curious, so a hasty fill-in during the few moments I have before I awaken Lil and take her to work, when I'll mail this to speed it.

It was kind of hectic around here night before last, with many interruptions while I was writing this letter to JER. Bud, his partner and Lesar read and oked before I mailed, and that was before things started falling into place, as much as they have.

My selecting and then background Finley seems to have been providential. He is in touch with, leaning on and getting from Jerry, all to date exactly what I had pieced together with Lesar plus one addition, the misrepresented Arab connection, that is really a claimed link with a well-known Maoist now in New York and then temporarily in N.O. Use of this connection said to be to establish JER's presence there at that time mid-1967.

I have known that this has been in the works for many months and it is one of the reasons I detached from both brothers. I have serious doubts and I can too easily show that all of it and particularly the Martin connection follows my first raising of that question with JER. Obvious suggestion that we were being fed, although not necessarily and not necessarily with these types.

The inherent danger is so great I suspect for that reason alone we have to have doubts, from which the inference that this is another cover is possible.

We just don't know and will have to wait and see.

What seems to have triggered is the now known plan to move James, in violation of Tenn. law, to a federal prison. It is to be first Springfield then an unnamed maximum-security, after medical and psychiatric workups. Prison underground attributes dirtyworks with the mind to Springfield (Mo.)

Correlation with imminence appeals-court decision obvious. Interference with his ability to help in his own defense also is and this he alleges.

The Osborn mention is part of the Teamster story, a disbarred lawyers in on the payoff rather than the bugging part. He blew his brains out. No clear recollection and I'm not checking. I spent three hours this a.m. working on Hunt, not Ray, although ~~most~~ most of yesterday was Ray. I'm doing as little as I can and didn't take or make notes of long conversations with LF, who I got onto this night before last, to his and his editor's joy because they bannered and syndicated and that is open sesame to Jerry. I have shown new paths. Unfortunately, with communications inhibitions.

The US Attorney in Nashville told Lesar that if he wants proof that JER has gone bananas this business and the semi-coherent documents provide it.

Interesting he also told Larry that the federal statutes now have all run and there can be no federal case.

Washington was much on the phone, even to the Cincinnati court.

Lesar will make Hunt summary for you when he makes one for himself, soon, and will send with something he forgot in sending court paper. Gave it to him yesterday.

He expects it will take two full days to prepare Supreme Court papers in John's case, and I now hope there is not diversion so he can. Timing important now.

Bud listened and prepared decent statement on situation and read it as long as Jim and I were with him, but departed when we were jolt, hence foolish one to AP. He was more tractable than usual and junked a letter he had written James in favor of one I did that his partner and Lesar also approved. His emotional involvement is great, part ego, part feels insulted, part guilt over deficiencies of past and belated recognition of errors that were so described in advance to him. These things now make no difference. And he should have been more active and vigorous over James' inhuman conditions, now year and half in solitary. Banner man did interview him in cell, describes as Lesar does and says that only light is single bulb of about 10 watts!

James apparently faking back injury, alleges it but it does not show in physical a week ago and while he alleges he can't sit up for 10 minutes, he did for 30 with Banner man, now CDN stringer. Finley spoke to him yesterday. (He had a long night, until 3 a.m. with Jerry.)

One immediate question is whether this will influence appeals-court decision, already unusually late, and if so how. It might not hurt.

Best,

HW