

MAR 8 1977

3/6/77

Dear Jim,

After several days of battling with and for the Rays today, I hope, will be one of less unpleasant work or of other unpleasantness. I've about 1500 FBI pages I've not yet been able to read. I've obtained their clipping file on the King case, too.

We've had a break in the weather and with it some bad news I've expected and some I didn't. I had feared that with a solid freeze of the pond since about Thanksgiving, perhaps earlier, the oxygen would have been replaced. The inlet has been frozen all this time, too. Lil took a walk around the pond yesterday and found about a dozen and a half of out fish floating bellies up around the edges. The major surface is still frozen. Oddly she saw none of the golden trout. I hope they survived. They'll be harder to replace. Oh, well, it will be relaxing taming bass again.

Once the weather came to the time of the break we got some wood sawed so I'm heating us with that, a cost reducer.

This was an odd winter. The temperature did not get as low for short periods as I recall from many winters but it remained below freezing longer than I can recall. One result is a deeper frost line. Among the consequences of this was what I've never seen in our long long, the loss of bottom even where the stones were deep and more than merely sufficient. It was odd to see the ~~fox~~ frost oozing up out of the ~~ground~~ ground, accumulating and trickling away. It is quite passable but I'll have to make more permanent repairs before next winter. A truckload of crushed limestone was to have been delivered this week.

All in all our problems with the weather are not nearly as serious as yours. We have heard of several reports of rain above you but only one of rain in your immediate area. One of the all-news stations aired a California water expert this past week. He said that if you have a normal rainfall for the rest of the year you'll still have a water problem next year. Will you all be going back to rain barrels?

The rearranging for more efficient taping capability and more utility in listening and viewing are proceeding slowly but they are proceeding. The shelving is all installed and stained. Once the backing is in I'll have the new (to me) local electronics people back for a wiring job I'd once have enjoyed attempting myself and in youth would have done easily. If what I hope for works we'll be all integrated, with a capability of taping without patching or improvising via permanent wiring. It will include reel-to-reel to cassette, both ways, and I hope dubbing. A student who is a carpenter and a vocalist for income and is studying under the GI bill - music - is doing the work when he has time. He has two infants and a hard time. I've loaned him the chain saw I should not use so he has been able to keep them warm.

I've indicated as much as possible by various enclosures about the committee situation. It appears they will try to sensationalize themselves an extension through the Rays. The Rays are crazy enough to want it. I think the Ray-Lesar break is imminent and that he will take a few steps on his own. He should. Thereafter I hope the break is total. They are sure losers and we can break the case in other ways now if they do not ruin the prospects. The Congress is losing JFK in all of this. Lane continues his virtuoso displays of ignorance whenever he speaks. The infrequent tapes I receive are of great value. This will have to be addressed. He puts me in the position of saying the FBI is accused unfairly. He says they killed King - still says it. Twice in LA, 2/24 and 26 from the tapes I've received. Incredible but I suppose popular. Exculpation of the FBI and the killers.

Been feeling pretty good. Sleeping more and hoping now to walk more. Hope all is well with you.

Best,

