

LAW OFFICES
JENKINS & JENKINS

BANK OF KNOXVILLE BUILDING
KNOXVILLE, TENN.

March 25, 1957

RAY H. JENKINS
ERBY L. JENKINS
AUBREY JENKINS
FRED G. MUSICK

Mr. Robert K. Bell, Attorney
State National Bank Building
Huntsville, Alabama

Re: Colonel John C. Nickerson, Jr.

Dear Robert:

Thanks for your letter of March 22, with which you enclosed newspaper clippings and several documents, which I shall read tonight. Incidentally, I spent the day in my office yesterday (Sunday) going over the documents you left with me, and giving consideration to the case. The more I see, hear and think of this case, the more interested I become in the defense of it, and I look forward with great pleasure to be associated with you, Colonel Zimmer and Lt. Cole in the preparation and trial.

Bob, the principal object of this letter is this: I deem it important to come to Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal, and confer with you, Col. Zimmer and Lt. Cole and our client at the earliest date possible. In short, I want to visit the locale of the "corpus delicti" and I want to get acquainted with our Military associates. We want to exchange views.

Incidentally, I was tremendously impressed with Col. Zimmer's letter of March 15, to General Ridgeway, copy of which you left with me. His ideas with respect to this case, and the procedure of defense seem to coincide rather closely with yours and mine. I think it very important that Col. Nickerson's team of lawyers get together and exchange ideas, and in an exchange of ideas no doubt our thinking will crystallize into some concrete method of procedure.

In looking through my file I find I do not have the addresses of Col. Zimmer and Lt. Cole, and I am, therefore, sending them copies of this letter, as well as a copy of a letter I wrote direct to John Nickerson this morning, in care of you, and you can forward it to them. If you will give me the addresses of these gentlemen, I will not hereafter bother you with such a detail.

Mr. Robert K. Bell, Attorney

March 25, 1957

I can come to Huntsville on any date between and including Thursday, March 28, and Friday, April 5. This is a nine day period. I am not averse to working on Sundays and in the evenings. I hope you can arrange for a conference for the five of us on the earliest one of those dates possible, and I assure you that I will stay in Huntsville as long as we feel that we are accomplishing what we have in mind, to-wit: a proper preparation of this case for trial.

Certainly, we will want to talk to Mr. Von Braun, and as many other witnesses or prospective witnesses as will be available.

In short, I want to absorb and assimilate as much of the over-all picture of what has been done, and of what must be done, as is possible, and in this wish, I know that you, Col. Zimmer and Lt. Cole join me.

Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Be assured that I am not unmindful of the hospitality of you and Mrs. Bell in extending to me an invitation to stay in your home, and of which I am deeply appreciative. By the way, speaking of Mrs. Bell reminds me that there is another very fine lady in that area that I want to meet and become acquainted with, to-wit: Mrs. John Nickerson. Perhaps our team of defense attorneys, our client, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Nickerson will join me as my guests at dinner the first evening I am there. This, of course, will also include Mrs. Zimmer and Mrs. Cole, if there are such, and if they are available.

Very sincerely yours,

Ray H. Jenkins

RHJ/kn

P.S. Bob, the newspaper clippings were most flattering, and while I felt that I was certainly over-played, I am, as we say, human, and these clippings will find their place in a scrapbook being kept by my grandchildren. Thanks for sending them.

cc: Lt. Colonel Charles R. Zimmer
1st Lt. Lewis G. Cole
Col. John C. Nickerson, Jr.