

May 8, 1957

Mr. Ray H. Jenkins
Bank of Knoxville Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear Ray:

Now that we have a continuance in our Nickerson case, in my humble opinion it is highly imperative that we lay some rather carefully calculated plans and try to pursue them.

I was a little bit surprised that they did not grant a longer continuance than they did for the main and simple reason that I firmly believe they will wait some time yet to give us the additional clearance that we have requested. This, of course, places us in about the same position that we were in on March 28 when we made our initial request for this additional clearance. If they supply us with the requested material at once we will have sufficient time; otherwise, I think they are playing a very carefully planned game with us.

Yesterday morning Cole, Zimmer, Nickerson and I had a conference, and it is our considered opinion that this continuance gives us an opportunity for our friends, provided they are willing, to get in every possible lick or bit of political assistance that we can muster. We are of the opinion that even a casual or subtle reference or suggestion regarding the advisability of this case not being tried will reach the ears of the proper parties and likely have a tremendous effect. I am writing a number of my friends in Washington today and suggesting that they pursue this course and feel that you, too, can get in some powerful blows in this direction. We, of course, have a lot of witnesses that we must interview, particularly the prosecution witnesses, and anytime that you can come down we will make our plans fit in. I would suggest however that you try to avoid the week of May 20, as I am going to have to be out of town on the 20th, back in the office on the 21st, and out of town again on the 22nd for the rest of that week. I will be available any other time except the 30th and 31st of this month, when I will be in Indianapolis.

Trusting that this finds you well and happy and asking that you give Mrs. Jenkins our best wishes for a bon voyage, I am

Always sincerely yours,

RKB:mfl

Robert K. Bell

CC: Lt. Col. Charles Zimmer
Col. John C. Nickerson