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LINE → 1

2nd SLUG
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CENTER FIRST CHARACTER UNDER THIS ARROW

Sept. 21, 1978

Choi Soo, good to read your Sept. 18 letter. I must get to the point immediately. I met with Mr. Witness. Talked with him for hours in presence of ranko. I can't tell you much in detail what he told me. But the most important thing is that the Killer he saw ax immediately after he heard bang, bang bang was not you. The fact that he had seen the Killer a number of times before the shooting in Chinatown and had known his face is important. Also he said he had run into you a few times in that area and had seen you casually. He said he had never seen you in company of any gang member when he saw you. You were always alone and with ax a friendly smile, he said. As you can imagine, it has taken quite a risk and courage when he responded to ranko to talk with me. I must be very very careful. I didn't ask his name. Neither do I want to know his name. Eventually, I pray other Chinese witnesses will come forward. But this is a big start. Tauman and I agree, though, that when when he successfully passes a polygraph test his story would have credibility to the general public. As you know, the crucial issue is the protection of his identity. He is willing to talk to me, and take a lie-detector test, and to testify ONLY ON CONDITION THAT HIS NAME OR IDENTITY REMAIN ANONYMOUS. AS Tauman suggested, I am trying to arrange a polygraph test for Mr. Witness by Cleve Backster and his associate Billy R. Smith who conducted your polygraph test. I talked with Smith, and he said he will get in touch with ranko to arrange such a test. But he hasn't yet given okay. He must first talk with Backster and ranko before it can proceed. Tauman and I went to Sacto. superior court Wednesday to find out your habeas corpus petition has been assigned to John J. Boskovich Monday. That means he still must review the petition before he decides to deny or grant a hearing on the petition.

I am certain, as the community support grows on your behalf, and more and more publicity is given to your case, others may come forward.

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE — EXCEPT 1. SCAN EDIT LINE

2222 In other words, time is ~~mmxx~~ on our side.

I have talked with my editor. He agrees with my perception on the Mr. Witness issue. After and if he agrees to take

the polygraph test and passes, I should come out with the story. Maybe that's when my newspaper should take a stand. ~~mmxxmmxxmmxxmmxxmmxxmmxxmmxxmmxx~~ This case of Mr. Witness demonstrates the need for some kind ~~mmxx~~ kind of protection programs for witnesses for the defense. As you know, the prosecution has a federal program to protect witnesses for the prosecution. But not for the defense. That's not right.

Mr. Witness has really convinced me of this monstrous ~~mmxxmmxx~~ injustice. I am ~~mmxx~~ more than ever ~~mmxx~~ convinced you are the wrong man. It sounds like stranger than fiction. How could this happen in America? I am outraged by what has happened to you. But we must, again, not lose our patience. We must build our case, block by block. Remember, if there had been no Ranko, if there had been no defense committee, if there had been no K. W. Lee, if there had been no support from so many people, this Mr. Witness would have never come out this far to see and talk with me. So you can see, we must continue to build our case--block by block. Time is on our side. ~~mmxxmmxxmmxx~~ Even if the worst thing may happen in the second case, we still have years to appeals to fight this injustice.

By ~~mmxx~~ the way, you must be careful in writing to outsiders in regard to this Mr. Witness. So please don't mention to any other people, except to those to whom ~~mmxx~~ you can write ~~mmxxmmxx~~ confidentially. We must never give any clue to outsiders.

As for the Asianamerican Journal and Patty Chang, I must tell you ~~mmxxmmxx~~ the joint interview by her and me is not possible. I ~~mmxx~~ remember state prison authority at Tracy tell me a few months ago that only one ~~mmxxmmxx~~ person can interview you. So it's up to you to choose one of ~~mmxx~~ those seeking an interview with you. ~~mmxxmmxxmmxxmmxxmmxx~~ Much has been written about you. She can use a lot of information in her article without seeing you. She certainly can see you at a later date. ~~mmxxmmxxmmxxmmxxmmxxmmxxmmxxmmxx~~ You and I have very crucial things to discuss--after I ~~mmxx~~ complete my project with Mr. Witness. I will call Mr. Rees next week to apply for an interview with you.

The situation with Mr. Witness is very delicate. We must be very careful not to upset this delicate situation. I will keep ~~mmxx~~ you informed on the Mr. Witness case. Remember, don't mention anything about this Witness case to anyone ~~mmxxmmxxmmxx~~ ~~mmxxmmxxmmxx~~ in letters which are NOT GIVEN CONFIDENTIAL STATUS. FEWER PEOPLE KNOW THIS, THE BETTER. OR DISASTER MIGHT HAPPEN.