

When is it Righteous to Lie?

*Reprinted from the Prayer and Action News, 1996, about January. By Dave Leach, Editor.
("Uncle Ed.")*

Uncle Ed's Daydreams

Cont'd from last week

Synopsis: A Grand Jury in Alexandria, Virginia, at the US District Courthouse, has been investigating "prolife force", and its literature, *for over a year*. In last month's issue, Dr. Gary Simpson of Wichita wrote of his experience there, "There was no amplification and they insisted that I speak rather loudly. This, I believe, was one of their interrogation techniques to get me riled up early and nearly yelling."

In the same issue, Henry Felisone of New York said "I was closely queried whether I believed that one could lie to a grand jury. (Truly clever question.) I said no, of course."

After those reports, I began daydreaming about how I would respond to the experience. My continued daydream follows. The prosecutor, or "torturer", is referred to simply as "Mr. T."

Mr. T: "I already *have* copies of all your junk, because we already have 2 informants on your mailing list!"

Mr., I mean Uncle, Ed.: "Oh, you mean X, and X? But what about X?"

Mr. T: "OK then, *three*. Which reminds me, do you believe it is sometimes just to lie?"

Ed: "Funny you should ask! I was just thinking how tired I am after hitchhiking such a distance, and wondering if it would be polite to ask if you had something a little softer and a lot longer than these old wooden chairs?"

Mr. T: "I mean, would you lie to a Grand Jury?"

Ed.: "Oh. Well.

"Just as the U.S. Constitution provides for a suspension of Habeas Corpus in times of war, even so, America's Spiritual Constitution, the Holy Bible, commends lying, but only under very extreme conditions, which could occur in a Grand Jury although I do not foresee them, and which I hope never occur."

Mr. T: "Under exactly what extreme conditions would you lie to a Grand Jury, Mr. Ed.?"

Ed.: "This is a very important question, especially in a place like Washington DC. I would like the freedom to answer it completely or I would ask your indulgence to excuse me from answering it at all, because such a question should never be left half answered."

Judge: "Will an hour be sufficient for you?"

Ed.: "It might be, if it is uninterrupted. I would like an hour and 15 minutes just to make sure I can get it in, but my answer probably requires only an hour."

Judge: "I hope this is as good as CNN, because my favorite subcommittee is on."

Ed.: "Since I am a Bible believer, I cannot hope to explain to you the very limited circumstances under which I would lie to a Grand Jury, or the conditions that would make a lie appropriate, which I hope will never occur, without explaining the very limited conditions in which the Bible commends lying.

"First I will cite several flat statements in the Bible that say lying is wicked. Second I will cite a few real life situations in the Bible where lying was commended by God because extreme conditions made it appropriate, and I will analyze why logic and even honesty agrees with God's perspective.

"Third, I will point out the sort of everyday conditions under which we technically lie, without ever thinking of ourselves as lying, because the conditions we are in require, of honest people, the responses we make. Sometimes our 'little white lies' actually are Biblical and we don't even know it.

“Fourth, I will speculate about extreme conditions which might, at some unforeseen time, require me to lie to a Grand Jury.

“First, a few flat statements in God’s Word that condemn lying: Revelation 21:8 says ‘But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and **murderers**, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolators, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.’

“1 Timothy 1:9-11 says ‘...the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for **murderers** of fathers and **murderers** of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind [sodomites], for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.’

“Isaiah 44:24-25 says ‘Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and **he that formed thee from the womb**, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish’.

“Proverbs 19:22 says ‘a poor man is better than a liar.’

“Proverbs 30:8 implores, ‘Remove far from me vanity and lies’.

“Proverbs 19:5 & 9 say ‘A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape...and he that speaketh lies shall perish.’

“Proverbs 6:16-19 say ‘These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and **hands that shed innocent blood**, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.’

“Proverbs 10:18 says ‘He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.’

“Proverbs 12:19 & 22 say ‘The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.’ ‘Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.’

“Proverbs 13:5 says ‘A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.’

“3 John 4 says ‘I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.’

“2 Thessalonians 2:10 says we have to love truth to be saved! It says Satan comes ‘with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.’

“That’s because Jesus Himself is The Truth, as it says in John 14:6, ‘Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.’

“Psalms 31:5 calls God ‘O LORD God of truth’.

“Truth is part of our armour against evil. Ephesians 6:14 says ‘Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth....’

“Psalm 34:12-13 promises, ‘What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.’

“Revelation 14:5 says 144,000 will be saved, ‘And in their mouth was found no guile [lie]: for they are without fault before the throne of God.’

“Here are a few verses that tell who qualifies as a liar: Proverbs 30:36 say ‘Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.’

“1 John 2:22 says ‘Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.’

“1 John 4:20-21 says ‘If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that

loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.'

"And now for Part Two, a few real life situations in the Bible where lying was commended by God because extreme conditions made it appropriate, and some analysis of why logic and even honesty agrees with God's perspective."

[Read Genesis 12, and incorporate the following commentary:

"Abram was 75, with an aged, beautiful, barren wife. Sarai was a knockout! Vs. 11-15! So Abram told a lie. Vs. 13. But it seemed justified, and it resulted in making Abram very rich, vs. 16, 13:2. It was innocent Pharaoh who was plagued, a foretaste of the future, not Abram for misleading him.

"Abram justified his lie because the truth would have made Pharaoh murderous. Vs. 12. Does that justify lying? Can you lie to save your neck? Certainly not when it is to save your neck from well-deserved punishment; but how about when it is to save you from the wicked who want to punish you for his own selfish reasons? If we know a thief is studying whether or not to steal from us, may we mislead him? Someone answer this for me.

"20:12 indicates his lie was a half truth, but still it was a deception.

[Read Genesis 22 and incorporate the following commentary:]

"You are bicycling in a large city with your wife and daughter. Time has gotten away from you; it is getting dark; and, too uncertain of the area to know which parks and streets to avoid, you turn a corner into a partying mob.

"They see you before you can turn around, and immediately come the sexual profanity, directed towards your wife and daughter, as they gather around you, leaving you about as much space to make a run for it as a cat leaves a mouse.

"What would you do? Suppose they started asking YOU questions, like 'what pretty little women you have here! Oh, you're a Christian? Well doesn't the Bible say that if you have two coats and your brother has one, you should give one to your brother? Say, you like them pretty young, don't you?'

"During the conversation, some came close enough to your wife and daughter to touch them, and were just starting to. Murder crept into their talk, between the lines, of you, and rape of your loved ones.

"You are no pushover. You are athletic, a former college wrestler, and you are even lightly armed. But you assume these men are heavily armed, and any violence would surely risk killing your wife and/or daughter, even if you could defend yourself. Your only hope is to (1) talk your way out of there, (2) if you can't all escape, and surely they would not let your wife or daughter go, maybe you could talk your own way out of there and quickly find help and come rescue them; or (3) trust God to protect all of you.

"How would you answer? Would you answer with the same directness with which you would answer people at work or church?

"None of them would for one minute trust you to tell them the truth, even though they challenged you, as a Christian, to give honest answers to their bloodthirsty questions. But if you could come up with a way to escape that required deception, would you think, 'naw, I'm a Christian; I have to be totally honest with these people'?

"Abraham, in this chapter, pulled the same stunt he did in Egypt, deceiving King Abimelech about being married to Sarah. (90 years old, PREGNANT, and still a looker!!) Yet vs. 7 and 14 show that God did not fault Abraham as much as Abimelech, and used it to make Abraham even richer.

"Abraham said he deceived because he was afraid of being killed.

"This man who defeated the four kings who had defeated the five kings! He was afraid of being killed!

"When his brother was in trouble he and 318 servants took off after 4 kings. That's 80 servants chasing each king and each king's army. But when it was a question whether to allow these heathens to take his wife by force and add them to their own harems, Abraham offered no resistance, not even to the extent of telling them he minded!

“God kept Sarah and Rebekah from harm. Perhaps Abraham and Isaac believed He would. But if they had enough faith for that, why didn’t they have enough faith to believe God would protect them if they stood with God? Especially since God had already promised to make of them a great nation.

“I read stories of Christians tortured by communists, where they find ways to mislead with half truths, or by truthful answers with deceptive double meanings. Lives are, thereby, saved. Is it unChristian to smuggle Bibles into China? Many Christians thought so, when such projects were first attempted.

“Abraham might have reasoned that by deceiving them and allowing them to take Sarah, at least he would be alive and able to rescue her at the right time. If they killed him outright she would be all alone. Or does this story prove only that he, too, was ‘a man subject to like passions as we are’, James 5:17? “How many Christian politicians veil their strategies with ‘honest’ answers that tell only half the story; answers whose effect is to deceive? How many Christians involved in politics advise each other to leave the masses to guess their true relationship with Christ to say very little about Jesus or Scripture ‘so you can be effective’? How many refrain from association with Christ on the job? Or among unbelieving relatives? Or even with sons and daughters who seem about ready to bolt anyway? ***If we do not criticize ourselves for understating our relationship with Jesus Christ, who then is left to criticize Abraham for understating his relationship with his wife?*** “I am still trying to understand God’s position on honesty. If you are surrounded by murderous liars, perhaps a different standard of honesty is justified.

“Still, if it were me surrounded by that motorcycle gang, or in Egypt or Gerar, I think I would be inclined to preach to them as powerfully as God would give me grace, and trust God to protect us from every physical assault. I have already publicly expressed my impatience with Christian activists today who publicly understate the centrality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their issues.

“Abimelech later asked Abraham to promise not to lie to him, Genesis 21:23, and Abraham promised, vs. 24.

“We know that liars will be thrown into the Lake of Fire, Rev 21:8. And how can the P&A be trusted, if its editor is perceived as justifying deceit?

“But keep in mind that Abraham was careful not to actually ‘lie’, but to limit his deception to half truths. Weigh also the fact that the premier sin that will send people to hell in the last days is taking the Mark of the Beast, which essentially appears to be shaping up as the willingness to make your life an open book to the government. “Abraham withheld information from the governments of Egypt and Gerar. I and many Christians today avoid giving government any more information than we have to, and do not consider it sin. I have no better answer, except that I trust that the Bible is consistent, and I strive to make everything I print or say as truthful as possible. I will be searching for a better answer as I read through the Bible.

“But the attempt to whitewash difficult verses like this is most dishonest.”

[Read Exodus 12 and incorporate the following commentary:]

“Israel, numbering perhaps half a million at that time, had only two midwives! (v. 15) The king told them to kill every male child at birth, v. 16.

“Here come verses 1721, which say the midwives lied and broke the law, fearing God more than Pharaoh, and that God rewarded them.

“For perspective, here are statements of Tom White, executive director and editor for the USA office of The Voice of the Martyrs. In 1979 he was sentenced to 24 years in Cuba for 7 years of smuggling Christian literature, but international pressure brought his release in 17 months. This is from The Voice of the Martyrs, ‘Special Issue 1994’, received in the middle of January:

“In 1947, the year I was born, Pastor Richard Wurmbrand was working with Romanian Christians who walked backwards in the snow. They were secretly carrying Bibles across the border into the Ukraine. When the border guards saw their footprints, they incorrectly assumed that someone had gone the other way...

“While loving those who are enemies of Christ, we neither hide nor apologize for our quarter of a century of innovative methods used in the midst of hostile systems where Christians are greatly restricted. Just as the mother of Moses used the technology of a straw basket and the mother of Jesus used a cover of darkness to protect the future Church, we also must follow in their footsteps and be “wise as serpents”.’

“A later article shows pictures of helium balloons bearing Scriptures which are released in South Korea at night to float over the border into North Korea. ‘They float in softly wise as serpents and silent as doves. The Communists angrily confiscate some of them and we are delighted because they read them too!’

“I wonder if Moses’ mother was conscious of the fact that she obeyed the letter of Pharaoh’s law, vs 3, by ‘casting’ Moses in the river? Pharaoh’s law in 1:22 didn’t say she couldn’t first put a boat in the river where she was going to ‘cast’ him!

“But she really did break the spirit of Pharaoh’s law, as we read in Hebrews 11:23, ‘By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper [goodly] child; and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment.’ It is not a virtue to be afraid of breaking the law. Hebrews gives this deceit as an example of faith. In other words, an example to us.

“Moses’ mother not only doesn’t kill Moses, but taps the government for a childcare entitlement to raise him! Vs. 710. Again by deceit!

“When Moses grew, and saw oppression, he broke the law to do justice. He did it with deceit, vs. 12.

“This, too, is given in Hebrews 11, vs 27, as an example to us of faith.

“Am I saying you can’t trust me, because I am a liar, being a Bible believer? Well, I don’t think there are very many Iowans more direct than I. I am honest in situations where most Christians would recommend ‘tact’, or ‘diplomacy’, or some other synonym for refraining from full and complete expression.

“In fact, the very reason I have been subpoenaed to come before you today is because of my boldness in publishing the truth, as well as I understand it. I have been accused of publishing error because I don’t know the truth, but so far no one has accused me of publishing error because I am afraid to tell the truth!

“If the advice I receive to refrain from speaking, not because my words are untrue but because they are too direct, is any indication, far more Christians are leery of association with me because I too often express the truth, especially the truth about Jesus, than because I twist the truth, or fail to express it accurately.

“I noticed long ago that an ordinary honest answer can often get you in trouble, creating a great temptation at times to lie. But if you can handle truth like a sword, like Jesus did, deftly evading the traps laid below the surface of the question, you can be just as safe, and sometimes even as well liked, as if you lie or avoid answering.

“But war is different. What Christian would feel obligated, if captured by communists and asked about troop positions, to answer freely and honestly? That would be treason, not ‘honesty’! That was Judas’ version of honesty. If the antichrist’s police, or Grand Jury, were to question me about the location of Christians, I guess I would consider it a holy mission to deceive them if I could. Although my style, though not tested to that degree, is more like that of Shadrach, Mesheck, and Abednego than that of the Israelite midwives.”

[Read Joshua 2 and 6:1617, 2325] “Rahab is not only a harlot, but she is a liar, isn’t she? Not to mention a traitor! Yet what do we read here in Hebrews 11:31, shining in God’s List of Heroes of the Faith?! ‘By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.’

“And looky here in James 2:2426, where it gives Rahab’s action as an example of an action that justifies a man before God more than having all the right beliefs: ‘Ye see then how that by works a man

is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

[Read Genesis 38 and incorporate the following commentary:]

“What a story rich in hypocrisy and in morals we do not honor today!

“Judah was ready to burn his daughter-in-law at the stake for fornication, unrepentant at his own fornication, until he learned her ‘fornication’ was with him, to which she had almost marital rights by the code of that day, while his only motivation was sinful pleasure.

“Tamar certainly lied, didn’t she? Even though Judah, her father-in-law, was certainly no enemy, except in the very narrow sense of being an enemy of God’s will in that particular situation.

“And yet Tamar’s deception was the only way to get Judah to obey God and break up the logjam that was holding up the lineage of Jesus Christ!

“Yes, one of Tamar’s twin sons of that union became an ancestor of Jesus, and Tamar received mention in Jesus’ lineage in Matthew 1:3!

“And now, surely the strangest passage in the Bible about godly lying. Here is a passage where God, Himself, lied!”

[Read 2 Chronicles 18 and comment:] “This incredible passage tells us that when pagan prophets of pagan gods tell the future, sometimes God sends along a little insurance just to make sure they don’t accidentally guess what will actually happen!

“However, God did make sure that His own prophet told King Ahab the truth, and the passage assures us Ahab *knew* it was the truth, before Ahab listened to the lies he preferred and marched to his death.

“So really, even this example is still consistent with 1 Samuel 15:29, which says ‘the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.’”

[Read 1 Kings 18 and comment] “Obadiah lied, didn’t he? He saved a hundred prophets of the LORD which King Ahab wanted to kill. But God didn’t judge him for that; just the opposite: that act *saved* Obadiah from God’s judgment.

“If a lie could save a hundred babies, would God judge a man for that lie, or reward him?”

[Read 2 Kings 11] “When Queen Athaliah killed all her grandchildren so she could reign over Israel for 6 years, was it wicked for the slain children’s aunt to hide one of them, and for Jehoiada the High Priest to conspire, 7 years later, to replace the Queen with the boy?

“I hope this pursuit of a categorical statement that lying is never justified is starting to appear ridiculous to you. You might as well ask a policeman if it is dishonest to sneak up behind a sniper and, by that deceit, kill him.

“And now for Part 3. I will point out the sort of everyday conditions under which we technically lie, without ever thinking of ourselves as lying, because the conditions we are in require, of honest people, the responses we make.

“A question framed in deceit, or honest error, sometimes requires, of an honest person, a response which may be, technically, a lie.

“For example, surely everyone here is familiar with the experience of overhearing two people talk about you, who think you can’t hear them. It may be your children, or your coworkers, or your relatives, or your neighbors. They may be plotting mischief against you, or real wickedness, or may merely be trying to decide something about your race, or religion, or disability, about which it would be awkward to address you directly. Or perhaps they are planning a surprise party or a gift for you.

“We may not lie verbally, when we pretend to be concentrating on our work, oblivious of their conversation. And they haven’t verbally come up to us and asked, ‘can you hear what we’re saying about you?’ But the intention of our hearts is to deceive them.

“Our purpose may be to learn the truth which deceiving conspirators have determined that we should not learn.

“In the case of others discussing something about us which they find ‘different’, our purpose in pretending we aren’t listening may be to save them embarrassment, as well as to save awkwardness for us and them.

“If it is our children who are hatching some mischief, we listen to learn the extent of the rebellion in each distinct heart so that we may later root it out with precision, without wrongly blaming one for the fault of the other.

“If we overhear plans for a gift or surprise party for us, we pretend not to hear so that we do not spoil the flow of their love.

“Surely everyone here has had the experience of wanting to help someone who needs, but does not appreciate, our help. God has made us all with different talents, so that we will need each other and love each other. The down side of that is that because we lack the talents of our neighbors, we cannot appreciate their value.

“It can be anything. Our neighbors, our parents, may know how to clean yards better than we. They would like to advise us, but we think they’re too nitpicky and we have better things to do. We may have body odor and never know it, which is tragically reducing our circle of friends, and we badly need advice but we resist it, because we don’t know we need it.

“So we approach them in friendship, talking lazily about anything other than what is on our mind, waiting for an opportunity to drop a subtle hint or lead the other’s mind by deceit to our point.

“Examples in America’s criminal justice system are almost too common to mention. We have undercover agents whose very identities are lies. We have spies. We have crafty lawyers who develop lines of questioning which lay deceitful traps for those questioned, and everyone calls this ethical and just.

“So certainly any trial lawyer, or prosecutor, would be in a very weak position to state categorically, without hypocrisy, that deceit can never be justified!

“Part Four: now it is time to speculate about extreme conditions which might, at some unforeseen time, require me to lie to a Grand Jury.

“I trust that when, God forbid, anyone here must stand before a Grand Jury ordered on a witch hunt by communist terrorists, or by Antichrist, and assuming you remain on the side of Righteousness, you would know you are serving your God by lying to protect other righteous people. In fact, you would believe it would be treason to betray them by telling the Grand Jury the truth.

“I think it is obvious that lies are in order under such emergency conditions, or under certain wartime situations under enemy interrogation. I don’t think anyone here would think twice about how to justify lying in those cases.

“What is not so obvious is where to draw the line between today’s situation and some such extreme future situation. What will have to happen to tell us the line has been drawn, and now it is a crime to tell the truth, and heroic to lie?

“Ron Norquist spent 11 months in jail after a judge told him, ‘You are required to promise to obey the injunction or be incarcerated until you make that promise.’ He said judges have found this effective because ‘they know Christians are truth tellers and keep their promises.’ But he said next time he will answer, ‘Your honor, if this court insists on asking me to state words that indicate I intend to obey this court’s injunction then I will give the court the required words. However, I will be giving words only. I will not be bound by these words to refrain from following my religious convictions when it comes to rescuing a preborn baby facing death. Furthermore, this statement is irrevocable so that any words which I may be coerced to say that might void this statement are in themselves only words and will not, in fact, void this statement. Therefore I am, at this time, prepared to give the court any word or words (regarding the court’s injunction) it may wish to hear.’ Norquist shared his experiences in January 1992 *Life Advocate*.

In the next issue, Cathy Ramey said she was faced with a similar injunction and an order to promise to obey it, and the injunction even included passing out literature. She cited examples of deceit

in the Bible, among modern Christian martyrs under communism and Nazism, and concluded, ‘To argue endlessly over whether or not it is acceptable to lie to a judge whose goal is to protect child killing highlights a number of weaknesses in our own prolife rhetoric. It calls into question whether or not the children we say we are concerned about are as much ‘real children’ as our own. After all, few Christians would be so legalistic over misleading a judge if it were their own children they were being ordered not to protect from a legal but lethal threat.’

“I’m afraid I have no formula for you, where to draw the line between the time for honesty and the time for deceit, other than to hope and pray it is seldom needed. And to say I can’t think of any question you could ask me that would cause that line to manifest.

“But I must say there are ominous signs. When subpoenas require all your witnesses to bring along AOG manuals, even though there is nothing in them that can *legally* be censored, I have to wonder by what *illegal* means you might be attempting to censor them. I can’t help remembering Ruby Ridge and Waco, you know.

“More ominous is judicial response to the Necessity Defense, of Operation Rescue days, and the Justifiable Homicide defense, of Paul Hill days. Courts prohibit the defenses from being explained to juries, without giving adequate explanations for their censorship. Courts simply have not adequately addressed the arguments presented. According to a law review article, the reason courts don’t allow juries to hear the defense is that when they do, they acquit!

“And now in America we see a pattern where the Supreme Court, with the support of all the rest, not only committed the original crime of legalizing child murder and butchering the Constitution in the same stroke, and will not allow proliferators who prevent the murders to defend themselves in court, but we see proliferators doing less and less, and still being charged and convicted, for doing things which no one knew was a crime until they were spotted doing them!

“For example, 30 days in jail for *praying in the wrong place!* People arrested for the crime of praying in a place of wickedness!

“And now, here I stand, before a Grand Jury which has been plodding on for over a year now, accumulating mountains of information which is kept secret, about activities which, to my knowledge, are, number one, legal and protected by the First Amendment, but, number two, are deeply hated by approximately half the politicians governing America.

“This is not like some murder trial where every Christian knows murder is a crime and is in full sympathy with the court’s efforts to convict anyone guilty of it. This inquiry appears to be an attempt to convict people who are doing things protected by the Constitution.

“I say ‘appears to be’ because you haven’t exactly been open or straightforward with the public about your purposes.

“But of course there should be no controversy that this inquiry is using unconstitutional means to achieve its dubious ends, by denying me my 6th Amendment Right to Counsel.

“Oh, sure, you allow an attorney to sit outside in the hall where he can’t see or hear anything, and if I feel uneasy about a particular question I can go talk with him. But you denied my petition to record this session with a TV camera, on the grounds that court reform discussions disparage hearings conducted by 2way TV communication because of the insufficient eye contact it provides, and if that is so, then surely my attorney should be equipped with a TV record of what he is being asked to advise about, *at a minimum.*

“You even denied my petition to make an audio recording of this hearing.

“So hear I am, struggling to make a longhand transcription of all your questions and my answers, and straining to hear your questions over the snoring from the Grand Jurors. My hands are tired from all the writing, my feet are tired from walking out into the hall after each of your questions to show my transcript to my attorney, and my throat is hoarse from having to shout my answers across this big room, over all the snoring and yawning, because you denied my petition to bring in a sound system or else turn yours on.

“So I guess the most appropriate attitude for me to take towards your questioning is that of wariness, and probably suspicion.

“However, despite these grave concerns I do have about *your* credibility, I think the LORD has still preserved me in a position where the absolute, unmitigated truth is my best weapon for serving God and for negating whatever wickedness you attempt to devise.”