

United States District Court
For the Eastern District of Michigan
600 Church Street
Flint, Michigan, 48502-1672

CHAMBERS OF
STEWART A. NEWBLATT
DISTRICT JUDGE

January 31, 1995

Ms. Michelle West
17809-039
Pembroke Station
Danbury CT 06811

Dear Ms. West:

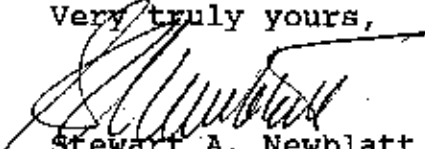
I want to acknowledge your letter to me of October 22, 1994 wherein you persist in telling me you are innocent of the charges upon which you were convicted. While I have sympathy for your position--the very severe sentences imposed--you certainly should be aware of two things.

First: In a jury trial, the judge's job is to determine what the jury is to hear and if there is enough evidence to submit to the jury. This is done according to the Rules.

Second: Once convicted, your sentences were required by the Sentencing Guidelines, and I was not permitted to exercise judgment.

And finally, you asked what I meant when I wished you "Good Luck" after imposing sentence. I suppose it may be hard for you to accept, but I have always hated the sentencing part of this position which forces me to deprive people of what is so important to me--freedom. Facing what you and many others face at sentencing makes me want to wish them something better than what they have just gone through.

Very truly yours,


Stewart A. Newblatt

cjl