

Henry Maile kept making a big fuss in court about his inability to get Renfro Mays to take the stand, even appear. In the end he obtained a warrant from the judge. This is the public part. There is a private story. Combined they illustrate the kind of people these young Assistant AGs are. (Maile told me he is 31.)

Renfro, who has been mentally ill for years, has an IQ in the genius range, according to Walter Buford, a well-established lawyer specializing in civil matters.

Periodically he checks himself in to a hospital when he feels whatever his trouble is coming on. The last time seems to have been a rather long one. We got word that he had been released Friday 10/18 and immediately subpoenaed by the State. Then we heard nothing until Henry started making noises in court. Meanwhile, we were outraged that Henry would do this to a sick man who can't possibly help the State's case and could only hurt it.

By way of explanation, the so-called Public Defender's investigation comes entirely from Mays'. Mays gave it to that office free. In fact, pressed it upon them when he could not get Mays to pay him for his work. This is proven by the fact, the PD's files establish it; and by testimony in a civil case, where Mays' word is supported by his lawyer, who participated. There are a few cases where his work was invention and thus provably false. But he told me in 2/71 and it has since been no secret that he did this only to get even with the police, who were interfering with his work. These couple of illustrations were emphasized by Maile and Stanton in questioning and testimony but are really irrelevant to the solidity of Mays' exculpatory work, which is basically accurate. My own checking out so proves. And it is doubtful that Henry would want testimony to the effect that the police interfered with the defense's investigation, which it later did in other ways.

While Henry was carrying on so in public I got a tip that it wasn't so, that he and his team had had Mays to lunch one of the days they were complaining about his unavailability.

Thursday night, 10/31, when I was dining with the out-of-town press at Jim's Place, in the Downtowner, Walter Buford drew me aside for several purposes. One was to tell me that as he was leaving lunch at Cooper's Cafeteria (100 N. Main Bldg.) he saw Mays with the State trio. Mays said they are thinking of using me as a witness but they went for two reasons, "they think I'm crazy" and "they don't like what I would have to say." Renfro introduced Walter to the trio.

As Maile and I walked from the Downtowner to the Albert Pick, where we were both staying, after the press drinking party, we chatted. He seems convinced of JER's guilt and that there was a conspiracy involving Jerry. We talked and he asked me if I had checked Guy Warren Canipe (his pronunciation) out. I said I had not. He said Canipe had an interesting record of background. I gathered he had the benefit of Bureau investigations. Canipe has a second-hand record business, his source being, apparently, juke boxes, which suggests gangland connections.

About what Canipe has said, the PD's file has corroboration and I obtained the other part of the story from Ghermley, who testified to it in the hearing. Jim Lesar and Dick Elke went to that firestation and retraced Ghermley's steps, at a walk and allowing about 10 seconds for his decision not to jump down from that height. They turned, walked toward Main St. and then to Canipe's doorway. In less than a half-minute they saw Main St. clearly and in a minute and ten seconds they were standing in that doorway. Which means that prior to his getting there Ghermley would have seen anyone walking toward him leaving in a car, etc. At a run they estimate Ghermley would have been less than a half-minute. And who would not have run under these circumstances? Or, the package was dropped in advance of the shooting, as I'd earlier theorized and had proven to my satisfaction 2/71.