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Plan for 'The King Conspiracies' "

The first part, new, is to give the reader insight and perspective in showing that in the times of great crisis, of the political assassination, and thereafter, all the institutions of society failed. Including the critics, almost all of whom believed that because there had been a conspiracy, which most failed to establish by fact and advanced by theories, it was legitimate to tell the reader that their theory was fact. This both popularized the subject and undermined the credibility of all legitimate criticism.

The second part is what I did as Ray's investigator after "Frame-Up" was published. I conducted the investigation that made it possible for the habeas corpus move to succeed and then for the evidentiary hearing.

In the course of writing "Frame-Up" I became absolutely convinced that the crime could not possibly have been pulled off as the official accounts have it, that officialdom had to have known this, and that the only way it could have happened is from ground-level along the rear of the buildings on that side of Main Street, most likely from the ^{or near} heavy-equipment parking lot.

I had no trouble locating witnesses who confirmed Ray's story, that he was not ~~where~~ there when it happened. The FBI had an abundance of evidence that this was so and I've made copies of all or most of those reports. Some were in the old working file in the three-drawer file cabinet in my office, some that I may not have copied then are in what Helen Wilson copied recently, ~~was~~ two sets, from the MURKIN files.

When I stated that ^{3-drawer} file I was still Ray's investigator and the file just grew so there is some disorganization in it and some of the matters I have in mind and in part refer to above are under "leads."

(CA 718-70)

When I got the extradition records via FOIA, I was convinced that the FBI had no case at all and that ~~the~~ extradition was illegal, as I'd believed before. I was also convinced from the mini-trial ^{in 3-drawer} transcript that there was official lying and that the autopsy report at the ^{least} ~~east~~ raised questions about it if in fact it alone did not disprove the allegations.

Most of the witnesses the FBI interviewed said that the shot came not from the flophouse but from ground level, just to the ~~southwest~~ north of the fire house. In addition, there was lying about the discovery of the bundle. It was by ~~Judson Ghormley~~ Judson Ghormley, not by Zachary, as was attested to in the minitrial, or by Dollahote, the FBI's fiction. It was seen by ~~him~~ ^(Chern/et) after it was seen by Canipe and others and by the time he saw it, in either account, his or Jim Lesar's and my timing of his ^{movements} ~~it~~ was long before the bundle could have been assembled and ~~dropped~~ ^{after being carried there}.

The FBI did not even make the normal test to determine whether the alleged death rifle had been fired either ever or, the normal purpose, after it was last cleaned. ^(SWAB TEST) Instead it claimed what I had refuted in the hearing, that there were insufficient marks for testing. In addition to his testimony, McDonnell told me as we left the sheriff's

office, where I'd taken him to examine that and the windowsill, that he wished he had as clear a specimen in most of his work. The FBI did, however, make tests with a number of irrelevant rifles, including the one Ray bought and returned, which its own reports say could not have been fired because of accumulated debris that as I recall included cosmoline.

This is really an author's dream- to analyze such a case, come to conclusions, then develop proof of his correctness on his own and then, in a lengthy, difficult and much-stonewalled lawsuit get the proof all over again from the FBI's withheld records.

I wrote Rev. ^{without response} Kyles three times before I was able to go to Memphis for the first time. I then did get to talk to him and what he said was that he had turned to his right or north and taken about five steps when he heard the shot. This made me convinced, that I was correct in believing that the assassin lurked, probably hidden by trash growth in or near the parking lot, and did not shoot because Kyles could have seen him when he heard the shot. He did shoot as soon as Kyles could not see him.

Going along with this are ^{FBI} reports indicating that at the same time King began to turn to his left, or away from Kyles, while still partly bent over the railing, when he was hit. The path of the bullet in him is consistent with the turn to the left but not to either at right angles to Mulberry Street or turned toward the flophouse, to his right, or north.

The FBI's own records leave it without question that it knew it was lying even though it controlled what its agents recorded of what witnesses told them. They could not safely eliminate the truth, much as the reports reflect the effort. True also of the locals.

On discovery I asked for the investigative reports of the public defender. They are overly-brief but they make out the same case I had, with an abundance of witnesses confirming each other. This makes it apparent that Foreman threw the case and the Stanton, ^{public defenders,} along with him. (At a point I do not recall Stanton Jr. had to go to a mental hospital.)

Most of what was alleged against Ray was detailed irrelevance and what was alleged about the crime was not only not true, there were alterations made ~~to~~ to try to confirm the official story. For example, to make it appear that the fleeing Ray could and did see the police cars parked at the firehouse, the two vertical bushes north of the firehouse, ^{and closest to the sidewalk} were cut off. I think I have a ^{pic} picture of this and I know I saw the stubs. The roots were not removed.

Where I refer to proof that Ray was not there I refer to all the many ^{FBI} witnesses, 40 or more, who were specific in identifying the cars that they did see, his excluded by all. This means near Jowers' bar and near Canipe's. Canipe was vigorously explicit in telling me twice that he did not hear any tires screeching and never said that he had. The first time Lesar was with me, the next Les Payne of Newsday. I made notes.

In short, not a single alleged fact was the truth and officials knew they were lying.

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It is not for ego reasons that I still want the part on my own work (and, of course, Jim Lesar's) included. The purposes include how obvious the truth was, how deliberate the lying was, how it is certain that any reasonably competent lawyer would have walked Ray and Foreman threw the case. There also is other information I picked up, some with Jim, in preparing for the hearing that I think should be included for a full story that I fear otherwise will not be told about this most significant event, this most costly crime in our history, the one that disenchanted so many people, blacks in particular.

There isn't enough in the old Ray files to make taking time for them worthwhile. I wasted too much time with them. However, Jimmy's account to me of returning with the car to leave it for Raoul and what he then saw is confirmed by Canale's speeches of which some where I have a tape from Bob Livingstone on one. What Ray said he saw I never saw in the newspapers and it is approximately what Canale described to the bar meeting he was taped addressing.

In the preceding graf I mean Ray and his family, not that file cabinet in the basement.

Before he left California on the trip east that ended when King was killed, Ray heard from and then was visited by an FBI informer named J.C. Hardin. The disclosed FBI records reflect that it made no investigation of this. He was from Atlanta.

There are clues to a possible solution under David and Shirley Gaines. In my own thinking earlier I had suspected that Partin and his gang could have done the job.

Three affidavits were taken from ~~Charles~~ Charles Stephens, one by the FBI, two by CRD. Before the first one was drafted the FBI and DJ knew he had made a negative identification of Ray yet the government, knowing it was false, used the second CRD affidavit without which even the illegal extradition would not have met the requirements. A CBS-TV special of years later showed Stephens looking at a Ray (Galt) picture 4/18/68 and saying not the man he said he saw. (He saw nobody.) I have the transcript. Also a file on Partin, with rap sheet.

FBI had and I have pictures showing the flophouse window not open enough for the rifle to have been fired from it, which the police reported immediately. (Press and Louw's.)

Ray's post-conviction relief motion ^{would be} was granted automatically if filed within 30 days. Lesar and I believe that Battle had just started writing it when he had his fatal heart attack. See Richard ^{Ryan} notes, tape. Battle's office was purged clean by the police.

The first results of the scientific testing all disprove the official story and records I got later add to this refutation of it. There were no powder burns on the cut-out section of window sill (the inside, which should also have been scored in shooting downhill) no traces of window screen on rifle, rifle could not have made dent in window sill as alleged (except of sideways, which precluded shooting it and also is false), no Ray prints in bathroom or anywhere else, rifle not connected with recovered fragment, etc.