

6/22/69

Mr. Jerry Ray  
1982 Arsenal  
St. Louis, Mo. 63118

Dear Mr. Ray,

Your letter of the 26th arrived today. I am glad to hear from you.

About a year ago I wrote a book a large part of which deals with the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., and what I think relates to it. In it I include Shari Lewis' <sup>12/2-1968</sup> interview with you. At that time I regarded it as substantially dependable. I have not read it since.

First, let me say of the people at that station that in my dealings with them they have always been considerate and honorable and nothing I ask or say is intended to create any conflict. I have appeared on it a number of times.

I asked them to get in touch with you for me because I am now making an extensive addition to that book. In it I analyze and report the various proceedings and what evidence I have been able to obtain. I presume you were told I believe your brother did not kill King. Examining the evidence has not changed my mind. It is my belief, based upon that study, that a lawyer less skilled than Foreman could have obtained his acquittal on this charge. I also understand you have been quoted contrary to this. This study fortifies my first impression, that your brother was a decoy, and my conclusion that he did not kill.

The work I have been doing has not been profitable. Rather it has resulted in considerable indebtedness. Therefore, I cannot pay you anything. All I can offer is an effort to help establish what the truth is and then to help bring it to public attention. Nor do I mislead you on this, for whether or not you help I will do what I can. I would like to think that any American, particularly a brother, would want to help in this.

Some time ago I wrote James. He has not answered. Should he ever be willing to talk to me, I would go there. Because I am Jewish I presume his present lawyers would not welcome this. However, who and what his lawyers are in no way alters my desire to learn and establish the truth.

It is my belief that my work will be of material help to him, may have much to do with his future, indeed, with whether or not he lives. I have never believed his greatest danger was from electrocution.

I have not phoned you in response to your invitation because I cannot afford it. If phone conversation becomes desirable, I will be prepared to tape it so there is no possibility of my misunderstanding anything you say.

I do not have any way of knowing how truthfully your brother spoke to you or, for that matter, how truthful you would be with me. Until I have reason to believe otherwise, I assume you will be truthful. However, I also believe I now know enough about this to be in a pretty good position to evaluate.

So, my purpose is to learn what you can tell me, as it is to help your brother and those who may ~~find~~ benefit.

I have made clear what I believe. This does not mean I do not want to know what does not support this belief. I want the truth, whatever it is, nothing else.

What I do particularly seek, however, is proof of the validity of my beliefs, what will support that evidence I now have. This is in many areas. If I tell you specifically, in advance, what these areas are I risk feedback, and that I do not want. From what I said you should have a pretty good idea. Generally, the information I seek will relate to both the tangible and the intangible evidence, with where he was when and with whom, with what he had and didn't have, what he did and didn't do - and why.

I am also interested in his relationship with his lawyers, most of all with Foreman and those in England. I do not hide that I think both did less well than they could. His English lawyer has refused to give me the evidence presented against your brother, which is rather strange, since all of it is in the possession of the government, which presented it in court. It is also strange because, once presented in court, it is public. Our government also has refused access to this. Perhaps strangest of all, Mr. Eugene said he would first check me out with the FBI, an odd attitude and action for the man whose adversary was the FBI - which is my adversary also. I do not really need this for my book, although it would help much. I would like to study it for other reasons, one of which is my belief it could help your brother.

If there is anything you tell me that must be kept secret, please specify, for otherwise I will assume it is okay to use it, should I desire to. I will keep your confidence as long as you deal honorably with me.

If you have any questions, by all means ask them. I look forward to hearing from you and whatever information you can supply. If you have any papers of any kind that might be helpful, I suggest you send them by registered mail to be certain they are protected. I will return them the same way.

Your typing is pretty good for a man without much education. However, if you prefer, please phone me. It is best after dark here, an hour ahead of you. If you want to help your brother, please do not waste time, for things may happen, especially in court, that cannot be changed.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg