

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
WESTERN DIVISION

JAMES EARL RAY,

Petitioner,

v.

No. C-74-166

J. H. ROSE, Warden,

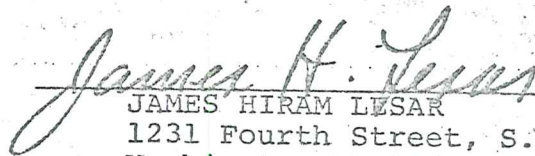
Respondent

MOTION TO ADMIT CERTAIN EXHIBITS IN EVIDENCE

Petitioner moves the Court to admit in evidence the following
Trial Exhibits: 13, 14, 15, 16, 38-A and 38-B.

A Memorandum of Points and Authorities is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

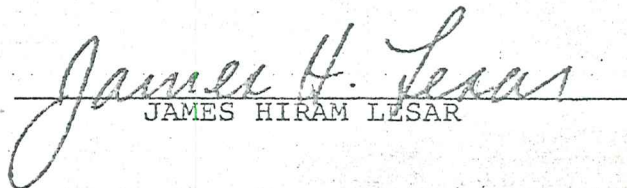


JAMES HIRAM LESAR
1231 Fourth Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20024

Attorney for Petitioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this 2nd day of January, 1975, mailed a copy of the foregoing Motion To Admit Certain Exhibits In Evidence to Assistant Attorney General W. Henry Haile, 420 Supreme Court Building, Nashville, Tennessee 37219.


JAMES HIRAM LESAR

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

While James Earl Ray was on the witness stand at his recent evidentiary hearing, he was asked to identify Trial Exhibits 38-A and 38-B. Ray did identify one of these two documents. It is the recollection of counsel for petitioner that Ray identified Trial Exhibit 38-A as a copy of a letter which he had received from William Bradford Huie through his attorney, Percy Foreman. [This letter, dated February 11, 1969, is attached hereto as Exhibit A] Ray also stated that he was uncertain whether he had received the September 3, 1968, letter which is Trial Exhibit 38-B. [A copy of this letter is attached hereto as Exhibit B]

Counsel for respondent objected to the admission of Trial Exhibits 38-A and 38-B. He noted that both letters are unsigned and suggested they were forgeries. When asked by petitioner's counsel who forged them, he replied, "You did."¹

Counsel for petitioner obtained copies of both of these letters in October, 1972, when he inspected some of the files which Arthur Hanes has on the Ray case. These two letters were submitted as

¹Counsel for respondent later privately apologized for this remark.

IT DIDNT HAVE TIME FOR THE EARL

Exhibits 47-A and 47-B to the habeas corpus petition which was filed on December 4, 1972.

Respondent raised no question as to the authenticity of these two letters until the taking of Percy Foreman's deposition on April 3, 1974. [See Foreman Deposition, p. 159] Later, at the taking of William Bradford Huie's deposition on September 20, 1974, counsel for respondent failed to ask Mr. Huie a single question about the authenticity of these letters.

Both of these letters begin with Huie's familiar salutation: "Dear Mr. Ray...." [For other examples in which Huie's salutation is followed by four dots, see Trial Exhibits 12 and 42] This and the unique content of these letters makes it obvious that they were written by Huie.

More importantly, however, the State has itself put into evidence the definitive proof of the authenticity of the September 3, 1968, letter. Attached as Collective Exhibit No. 7 to the September 20 Huie deposition is a letter which James Earl Ray wrote to Huie in response to Huie's September 3, 1968 letter to him. A few simple comparisons make this clear beyond a shadow of a doubt.

In his September 3 letter to Ray, Huie wrote:

Quite obviously, some time during 1967 somebody decided to have King killed. And this decision was made somewhere.

Where do you think this decision was made?

At what time do you think it was made?

Exactly when did you become involved in this plan?

Ray's response to Huie's questions is contained in the letter which is attached hereto as Exhibit C:

I don't know when, where, the time or why King was killed. I suppose I became involved when I first took those packages into the U.S. from Canada.

HE DIDNT HAVE TIME FOR THE EAR,

Huie wrote:

If you hated Martin Luther King and helped kill him because of it, then you will have plenty of sympathizers in Memphis. If this is the truth, it can help you.

If Martin Luther King meant nothing to you, one way or the other, and you were hired by men who hated him to kill him, you will also have sympathizers.

But if you just happened to stumble into all this, and you didn't know what the hell was going on, then no juror is going to give a damn about you.

Ray responded:

I wouldn't say I hated King. I do think most preachers are a little phony but I wouldn't consider shooting them.

I would also agree that by my not having any political opinions that I won't get much sympathy from either side. However I am going to try to change this.

All this makes it manifest that Trial Exhibits 38-A and 38-B are authentic copies of letters written by William Bradford Huie and delivered to Ray by his attorneys. It is equally clear that at the same time that counsel for respondent was shouting "forgery" to the world, he knew that the Exhibits he objected to were in fact authentic.

At the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing, counsel for petitioner sought to get respondent's agreement to stipulate these two letters in evidence. Counsel for respondent refused, saying that they are "pretty damning documents."

Because these letters were not admitted in evidence during the evidentiary hearing, counsel for petitioner did not refer to them in the two post-hearing memorandums he filed with this Court. However, given the facts sketched above, it would be an injustice to exclude these two exhibits from the record in this case. Accordingly, petitioner ask that they now be admitted in evidence.

HE DIDNT HAVE TIME FOR THE EMB,

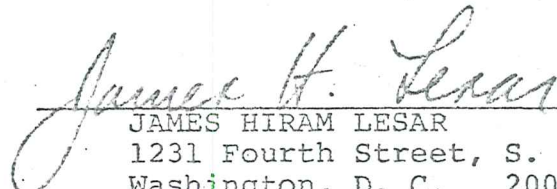
In his letter to the Court of December 17, 1974, counsel for respondent states:

Trial Exhibits 13 and 14, supposedly affidavits of James Earl Ray, relied on in Petitioner's brief (See e.g., page 19), were never offered nor admitted into evidence.

After the reading of the Foreman Deposition, petitioner and respondent agreed to stipulate into evidence several exhibits not previously admitted. Counsel for petitioner thought that respondent had agreed to stipulate to the admission of the affidavits of John, Jerry, and James Earl Ray, and was under the impression that these exhibits had in fact been admitted by stipulation. However, checking his final list of exhibits, counsel for petitioner finds that he is wrong, and that these affidavits were not admitted in evidence.

Counsel for petitioner believes, however, that the ends of justice would be better served if these affidavits [Trial Exhibits 13 and 14] were admitted in evidence. Since respondent had ample opportunity to cross-examine petitioner about their content and veracity, there would seem to be no valid objection to their admission. Accordingly, petitioner asks that they be admitted in evidence, too.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES HIRAM LESAR
1231 Fourth Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20024

Attorney for Petitioner

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ORDER

This matter having come on before the Court upon petitioner's Motion To Admit Certain Exhibits In Evidence, and the Court being fully advised in the premises, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Trial Exhibits 13, 14, 15, 16, 38-A and 38-B be and hereby are admitted into evidence in this cause.

.....
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

(1) H

FOR - MR. HOIE

I WILL ATTEMPT TO ANSWER SOME OF YOUR LETTER IN A GENERAL WAY, ITS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING WHEN THE QUESTIONS ARE RANDOM, ALSO I SEEM TO REMEMBER MORE WHEN I WRITE THAN WHEN I ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MR. HANES.

FOR EXAMPLE IN THE LIFE MAGAZINE ARTICLE MR. HANES SHOWED ME YESTERDAY I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE TOOK OUT AN ADD IN THE FREE PRESS OF LOS ANGELES I DID HAVE THAT ADD PUT IN THAT PAPER BUT THERE WAS MORE TO IT THAN THAT, FOR INSTANCE I TOLD THEM I WANTED TO EXCHANGE PICTURES, IF YOU GO BUY THEIR GET A COPY OF THE PAPER WITH THE ADD IN IT AND CHECK. ALSO I RENTED A MAIL DROP FROM A PRIVATE PARTY IN ALHAMBRA CALIF, 'HEDGE PETH I THINK IS THE NAME' FOR ALL MY MAIL FROM THIS ADD TO GO TO, THEN I SENT ABOUT 12 PICTURES TO ANOTHER ADD THAT WAS IN THE FREE PRESS, I THEN WENT TO DR. RUSSEL HADLEY AT. APP. 7000 HOLLYWOOD BLVD. AND HAD PLASTIC SURGERY ON MY NOSE IT HAD BEEN WASHED TO THE LEFT. AFTER I GOT TO THE HOTEL I MOVED THE BANDAGE TO THE RIGHT TO CHANGE MY APPEARANCE MORE. I INTEND TO GO TO ANOTHER PR. AND HAVE MY EAR CHANGED, THESE THINGS ARE NOT NOTICEABLE ON PERSON TO PERSON CONTACT BUT THEY SHOW UP IN PICTURES I DIDNT HAVE TIME FOR THE EAR,

see Ben
with by
my hands

Wish
Filed 20 Oct 74 Colloc.
Ex. 7 Dep. Mr. Hoie
By John Hamlin, Court Reporter

(2) *ff*

BENNIE EDMONDSON, HE WAS ARRESTED IN MONTREAL IN JULY OR AUGUST OF 1967.

THE REASON I DID THIS WAS THAT I EXPECTED TO BE PUT ON THE TOP 10 ANY DAY SINCE I ESCAPED OVER THE WALL. (WHILE I WAS IN MONTREAL THERE WAS A ~~FORGOTTEN~~ MAN WHO ESCAPED FROM THE SAME PRISON I HAD, WHO GOT CAUGHT UP THERE & FORGOT WHAT HIS REAL NAME WAS BUT HE WAS WORKING AT THE EXPO UP THERE AND USING THE NAME OF ALEX BOORMANN.) I REASONED IF I HAD PLASTIC SURGERY THEY COULDN'T VERY WELL IDENTIFY ME PLUS THE FACT I DON'T HAVE PRONOUNCE FEATURES AND DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE MY PICTURE. BUT I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE CIRCULATED MY PICTURE AROUND IF I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE THE OBJECT OF A WORLD WIDE MAN HUNT THE NEXT MONTH PLASTIC SURGERY OR NOT. ANOTHER WORD I THOUGHT SOMEONE WOULD SEE ME ON THE TOP TEN AND SEND IN ONE OF THE PICT.

NOW I WILL TRY TO ANSWER THE REST OF YOUR LETTER

1. I THINK I MITE HAVE GOT INVOLVED IN THE KING AFFAIR GRADULLY AS I HAVE EXPLAINED TO MR. HANES.
2. I THINK I EXPLAINED THAT I WAS IN TORONTO AT 102 OSSINGTON AVE. WHEN TOMAX SAID I WAS IN MILWAUKEE. YOU CAN CHECK THIS VERY EASY.

25

(3) *[Signature]*

I DON'T KNOW WHEN, WHERE, THE TIME OR WHY KING WAS KILLED I SUPPOSE I BECAME INVOLVED WHEN I FIRST TOOK THOSE PACKAGES IN TO THE U.S. FROM CANADA.

I WOULD THINK IT WAS DESIRED BEFORE THE CAR WAS BROUGHT IT BIRMINGHAM AS NO ONE WOULD GIVE ^{IT} 3,000,00 TO SHIP NARCOTICS ACROSS THE BORDER.

I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION I WAS TO BE PAID IN MEXICO BUT NO MENTION WAS EVER MADE OF MURDER OF KING OR ANYONE ELSE.

AS FOR MY BEING STUPID I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR BUT I WOULD NEITHER SAY I WAS SMART SINCE I HAVE SPENT ABOUT 12 YEARS IN PRISON ON THE DUPE PART IM SURE UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES I WOULDN'T, BUT YOU WANT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PSYCHOLOGY ASPECT OF MY POSITION, I WAS PROMISED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AFTER TWO JOBS AND NEVER GOT THEM AND I KNEW I WAS GOING TO WANT TO GET THEM AND GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY OR GO BACK TO PRISON FOR ABOUT 25 YEARS, I WAS PROMISED THEM FOR SURE AFTER THE LAST JOB PLUS 10 OR 12 THOUSAND FOR THE JOB, IT HARD TO EXPLAIN IT, BUT WHEN YOU GET IN THIS FRAME OF MIND YOU DON'T LOOK AT ALL THE ANGLES OR ALTERNATIVES, THE WAY I GOT MY CANADIAN PASSPORT IS AN EXAMPLE, I KNEW THERE WAS NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO APPLY FOR IT.

(4)

John

I WOULDN'T SAY I HATED KING I DO THINK MOST PREACHERS ARE A LITTLE PHONY BUT I WOULDN'T CONSIDER SHOOTING THEM.

I WOULD ALSO AGREE THAT BY MY NOT HAVING ANY POLITICAL OPINIONS THAT I WON'T GET MUCH SYMPATHY FROM EITHER SIDE. HOWEVER I AM GOING TO TRY TO CHANGE THIS.

ALSO IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE I AM FILING SOME LIBEL SUITS. ^(AGAINST LIFE) ~~AGAINST ME~~ OR MY FATHER WILL, WE MAY ALSO FILE AGAINST LOMAX AND HAVE THEM PRODUCE ALL OFF THESE PROSTITUTES & PICTURES THEY HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT.

NOW ABOUT MY BROTHERS, JOHN MY OLDEST BROTHER HAS NEVER SAID ANYTHING TO ANYONE OR HAS NEVER BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING ANYTHING, JERRY TOLD ME ON HIS LAST VISIT THAT HE DID NOT TELL LIFE THAT HE THOUGHT ~~OF~~ I WAS INVOLVED IN THE KING MURDER, THAT I DID IT FOR MONEY AND WILL TESTIFY SO IN THE FORTH COMING LIBEL SUIT.

I WOULD ALSO REFER YOU TO THE ARTICLE IN LIFE OR NEWSWEEK QUOTING WARDE SWENSEN AS SAYING I WAS COLD BLOODED AND RUTHLESS AND CAPABLE OF THE MURDER OF KING, YESTERDAY MR. HAVES SHOWED ME A LETTER TO THE EDITOR ^{FROM SWENSEN} OF THIS MAGAZINE CALLING THE QUOTE A LIE.

WMM ☺

IN SHORT I DON'T INTEND TO INVOLVE SOMEONE OR SOME ORGANIZATION THAT I DON'T THINK IS INVOLVED JUST TO GET INTO THE GOOD GRACES OF SOMETHING LIKE LIFE MAGAZINE, AND WHAT I TELL YOU IS WHAT I WILL TELL THE JURY

LIFE MAGAZINE INFERED THAT AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED IT WAS OVER, ANOTHER WORDS THEY HAVE GOT ME CONVICTED, NOW THEIR LOOKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE, I WOULD SAY TO THIS IF LIFE CAN GET ME IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR THROUGH THESE LIES THEN THEIR A GOOD POSSIBILITY THEIR POSITION IS NOT TO FIRM.

I HAVE ALSO TOLD MY BROTHERS NOT TO TALK TO ANY ONE EXCEPT YOU AND HAVE SO IF ANY MORE STORIES COME OUT QUOTING THEM IT'S FALSE.

ALSO I DON'T HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO YOU WRITING ANYTHING I SEND YOU THROUGH MR. HANE INCLUDING CRIME AND NATURE IF I WRITE SOMETHING YOU THINK IS WRONG, GIVE YOUR VERSION.

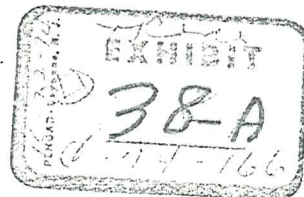
THEIR ALSO IS MORE TO THE STORY ABOUT THE PLASTIC SURGERY IN CALIF. BUT I CAN EXPLAIN IT BETTER WHEN I GET TO THAT PART OF THE STORY.

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU THE IMPRESSION AM SOME KIND OF A SAINT BUT I THINK IF SOMEONE THOUGHT OUT SOME OF THE THING I AM SUPPOSE TO HAVE DONE, THAT THEY COULD SEE THAT MOST OF IT IS NOT LOGICAL.

IN THE LIFE MAGAZINE ARTICLE THAT MR. HANES SHOWED ME YESTERDAY THE ARTICLE MENTIONED VARIOUS COUNTRIES I WAS IN AND IT SEEMS IN ALL OF THESE COUNTRIES ~~CHICKEN~~ PROSTITUTES AND PORNOGRAPHY PEDDLERS CAME FORWARD AND INVOLVED ME IN SOME OF THEIR ACTIVITIES, NOW ~~BEFORE~~ BETWEEN APRIL AND AUGUST OF 1967 THERE WAS A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO SEEN ME AND I WORKED WITH SOME SUCH AS THE KLINGEMANS AND YET NONE OF THESE PEOPLE CAME FORWARD AND IDENTIFY ME FROM MY PICTURES IN THE PAPERS, YET ALL OF THESE PERVERTS WHO PROBABLY CAN'T EVEN OR WON'T READ A PAPER HAVE CONTACTED LIFE AND SAID THEY KNOW ME, I SUPPOSE THROUGH MY PICTURE SINCE NO ONE HAS SEEN ME SINCE MY ARREST.

TO BE MORE SPECIFIC LIFE SAID AFTER I WENT BACK TO TORONTO THE SECOND TIME AND APPLIED FOR THE PASSPORT I SPENT EVERY NIGHT IN SOME G.A.G.O. PLACE CALLED THE SILVER DOLLAR, WHAT IS NOT KNOWN IS THAT I SPENT 9 DAYS IN MONTREAL ON BUSINESS DURING THIS TIME AND CAN SEND YOU TO WITNESSES WHERE I WAS STAYING TO PROVE IT, SO I EVIDENTLY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN SOME CLUB EVERY NIGHT.

ON THESE PHONE CALLS I WAS SUPPOSE TO HAVE MADE WHEN I WENT ~~TO~~ WITH STEIN TO NEW ORLEANS I DID MAKE TWO COMING BACK BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO QUOTE ME JUST SAY YOU FOUND IT ON YOUR OWN. THE PHONE CALLS WERE TO MY BROTHER AT THE SPORTSMAN GOUNTRY CLUB IN WHEELING ILLINOIS, MY BROTHER WASN'T THERE BUT THE MANAGER ANSWERED AND I AM SURE HE WOULD REMEMBER IF YOU CONTACTED HIM, IT WAS ABOUT 11:30 AM. AND HE SAID HE WOULD



February 11, 1969

Dear James Ray....

Last Friday was a very disappointing day for me and, I assume, for you. I was glad at least to see you for the first time in the courtroom, and I wish I could have spoken with you. But Judge Battle seems determined to keep you from seeing anyone other than your brother and your attorney who might be friendly toward you.

The two stories I published in LOOK last Fall did nothing but present you as a "sympathetic character." And the judge therefore believes that these stories did "great damage" and "made a fair trial almost impossible." I guess that on April 14th he will put me in jail for ten days.

I will appreciate your reflecting for a while on the position I am now in with your story. I have to write NOW probably everything I am ever going to write. I have to write it NOW in order to be able to publish it immediately after your trial, when I think you are going to need it.

Your trial apparently will begin on March 3rd; and the fact that Judge Battle has set my trial for April 14th indicates that he thinks your trial will be over by then.

I am sure you understand that I can't wait until your trial is under way, or until it is over, to write my story. If I wait until then, then I couldn't possibly publish anything until Summer. And since books and important magazine articles are never published during the Summer, if I delayed finishing my story any longer, I couldn't publish until Fall, and that would be too late to do you any good. It would also greatly reduce the income from what I write, because I would then run into three competitive books; and I suspect that you are going to need all the money you can possibly derive from my efforts.

So here is my position today: I must assume what is going to happen at your trial, and I must complete my work before the trial begins.

I have now worked on your story for seven months, and you have helped me, and here are my assumptions as to the trial:

1. You are certain to be found guilty and sentenced either to death or to 99 years in prison.

It is therefore my hope that there will be no trial: that you will plead guilty and be given a life sentence, which will give you some chance to survive as a human being, and give me some chance to help you with what I write.

I know how to present you as a "sympathetic character." No matter what the truth is, I can present you as a "sympathetic character" and I can help you. I might even help you get out of prison in 10 or 12 years, depending on how much you cooperate with me.

Along with my hope that there will be no trial, I hope that you will decide to tell Mr. Foreman and me the complete truth about your involvement in this murder. You don't have to identify anybody else. And no statement by you as to the murder ever has to be published. But if I am to help you effectively, you are going to have to help me tell the story truthfully.

In 1955 I wrote the complete truth about two men in Mississippi who murdered a youth named Emmett Till. I wrote the story so that those two white men have been able to stay out of jail and live successfully and find jobs. I can do a similar job for you if and when you ever decide to help me.

In what I write NOW I must write all that I think I know, and I must also recreate this murder as I believe it happened. And I want you to understand what I now believe and what I intend to write:

I don't think you are stupid or inept or incapable of this crime or the escape which followed. Nothing is more damaging to you and your chances than the continued published statements by men like Bevel and others that you are a "deranged" and inept man, incapable of killing Dr. King or of making your escape.

Quite frankly, I think you killed Dr. King, and by your own accounts to me and your lawyers, you made your escape. The best service I can render you is to write this in simple words so people can understand it.

The suggestion that you were not skillful enough to fire the shot is nonsense. I bought the same rifle you bought from the people in Birmingham, and I recreated the shot from the same angles and distance. The shot is easy, and you know it and I know it and can demonstrate it.

From the beginning you have said that "another man" was with you in Memphis. Maybe there was, but there is no believable evidence that there was. I have to assume that you were along, and I can do nothing more than quote you as saying that someone else was with you.

In short, my story now has to "make sense." And I have to try to make sense where you have declined to help me.

I can't pretend that you weren't anti-Negro. The state has ample evidence to show that you were a "nigger-hater." Your refusal to sleep in an integrated dormitory at Leavenworth is really all the evidence the state needs.

I expect to complete my book by March 1st. I'll send it to you by Mr. Foreman chapter by chapter, and I hope you will correct any mistake in it.

Please understand that it is not enough for me to "write whatever I want to write." The only thing I can write is what I sincerely believe to be the truth. Remember that nothing more that I write will be published until the trial is over. You will have been sentenced before anything appears again.

I have to write something in which you appear "sympathetic" to a large number of Americans, and only the truth can help you. And again I emphasize: I do NOT ask you to name anyone else involved. I don't need any names; all I need is a true account.

I need to know when James Earl Ray decided to kill Martin Luther King. And why you decided to kill him. And the help that was given you: was it given to you because you and perhaps others were going to kill King, or because you were going to do some more border-running?

You are going to need help, Jim. You may need help to escape the chair. You'll need help, and money, for appeals. I am the only man in the writing business who wants to present you as a sympathetic character, and who is willing to take the risks of giving money to your defense and cause. And I have to write what I am going to write NOW. Not at any time later.

After you have been sentenced, I can come to see you, and we can write more perhaps a year or two years from now. Like Chessman did. (I worked-on his story.) But I need help from you now. And I'm not suggesting that you put anything further in writing. Just tell Mr. Foreman what the truth is.

In concluding, let me repeat:

1. You have much to lose and absolutely nothing to gain from a trial. So I hope there won't be a trial, and that Mr. Foreman can arrange a life sentence for you. Not 99 years but life.

2. At the same time I hope you will tell Mr. Foreman and me the entire truth. You don't have to name anybody else. Just tell us the whole truth. I can then write and publish this in a way which will win you sympathy from a very large number of people around the world.

And believe me on this: Public opinion is going to decide your ultimate fate. And Mr. Foreman and I are the only two people who can manipulate public opinion in your favor.

I have told you this: that the other books now being written will all present you as the sole and lone murderer of Dr. King. The MacMillan book will say that you admired your criminal uncle, and that no one else but you was involved in the King murder.

I, alone, insist that you were "helped" or "directed" in the murder. I, alone, talk about conspiracy. To do this effectively I need more help from you.

I could also use this: I have written about how you were in Selma on March 22nd, and then drove on to Birmingham and Atlanta. Then back to Birmingham for the gun, and back to Atlanta. I need from you a day by day and hour by hour account of your movements from Atlanta to Memphis on April 3rd.

Whatever happens, and whatever you decide to do, I'm sorry that the court would not allow you to see me; I think this is a great injustice to you; and I will continue to try to help you.

Sincerely,

EXHIBIT
38-B

EXHIBIT NO. 47-A

September 3, 1968

Dear Mr. Ray....

I am working very hard on the story, and I will be in Memphis all this week.

I have now reached the point where I must ask you to explain to me clearly your INVOLVEMENT in the King murder.

Now notice that I don't ask you to name other people. I simply ask you to help me explain truthfully your involvement.

I'm sure you understand that there is no way in which I can deny your involvement. So, in your own interest, I must explain it. At your trial no member of the jury can have the slightest doubt that you were involved. You can plead Not Guilty to the charge of murder, and Mr. Hanes can create doubt as to exactly what your role was. But that you were involved is an obvious and accepted fact. Not even your brothers have questioned this.

I am sending you the series of reports by Louis Lomax about your involvement. He is a Negro reporter and television personality, and he obtained some of his information from Stein. He and Stein tried to retrace your round-trip from Los Angeles to New Orleans.

I need to know the truth, from you, about everything that Lomax says. In particular I need to know the truth about whether the money for this murder came from New Orleans.

Quite obviously, some time during 1967 somebody decided to have King killed. And this decision was made somewhere.

Where do you think this decision was made?

At what time do you think it was made?

Exactly when did you become involved in this plan?

Where were you? And tell me how you learned of it.

Under what terms did you become part of this plan? How much were you paid at the outset? What instructions were you given?

How much were you promised after the murder? What were you to have been paid in Atlanta after King was dead?

Let's understand one another on one point. I can't believe, and I will not suggest in anything I write, that you are stupid. Or that you were a dupe or a dope in this murder.

I don't believe it, and I think this theory that you are a dupe can be fatal to you. I have been present at most of the big race-murder trials since 1955. Several members of the jury which judges you in Memphis will be glad that somebody murdered King, and they may vote in your favor if they believe that you were a willing instrument in King's murder. But if those jurors continue to read that you are such a stupid dope that you didn't even know what was going on until you heard a shot fired, they aren't going to have any sympathy for you.

If my story is to be of any value, and of any help to you, I must present you as an intelligent, knowledgeable fugitive, trying to obtain capital and an identity, who was enlisted in this murder plan.

And what induced you to enlist in this plan? Your brother says that it could only be money. All right, tell me the money story, so that I can tell it truthfully.

Here is another point which I'm sure you now understand. In my story, when I quote you, it will only be about your non-criminal activities: like your job in Chicago, or your experiences after you broke out of prison, or your personal habits, etc. When I write about your criminal activities, I will NEVER quote you, or even say that you told me anything about this. I will write as though I obtained this information in my "general investigation."

Now: once I understand clearly how, when, and where you became involved, I can make sense out of your travels. I can explain accurately why you made this hurried round-trip to New Orleans in December, 1967.

Quite obviously, you came to New Orleans for money: you would have been a damn fool to make that trip for any other reason. Well, tell us about the money?

In short, Mr. Ray, all sorts of stories have been written about you and this murder. And the effect of all of them is to start you straight toward the electric chair. The only way I can help you is for me to publish the truth and make sense.

If you hated Martin Luther King and helped kill him because of it, then you will have plenty of sympathizers in

Memphis. If this is the truth, it can help you.

If Martin Luther King meant nothing to you, one way or the other, and you were hired by men who hated him to kill him, you will also have sympathizers.

But if you just happened to stumble into all this, and you didn't know what the hell was going on, then no juror is going to give a damn about you.

So I hope that now, very seriously, and in your own best interest, you will help Mr. Hanes understand your INVOLVEMENT in this murder.

The only way in which you can help yourself now is to help me publish the truth.

Best wishes,

I realize that we are handicapped by not being able to talk face to face. Mr. Hanes will tell you that this week we are trying to reach some agreement with Judge Battle.

Just as soon as I get the true picture of your involvement -- when it began, where, and how it worked -- then I will travel to Canada, California and Mexico and find other people, like the Klingemans, to help me "improve your image."