

8/20/76

Dear Les,

I have a good source on what some in the Black Caucus are up to on the King assassination. Incomplete as my dependable information may be, I can see nothing except an invitation to a disaster from it.

First of all they are dealing with Mans. If he ever did any work, on this case he has done none. I have never heard of or seen a single really solid thing he has done on anything. Except promoting himself.

Their plan is to amend a disastrous resolution stymied before the rules committee to include the King assassination. The figure that with the amending they can win by 8-7. If so this means no more than that it will get to the floor.

As part of a move by a quitting ultra from the Newport News area, one whose every effort to day has served the spooks. Utterly irresponsible in its finer moments.

This is a guy who has two blistered hands from hot irons and still hasn't figured out what happened to his hands.

And the House is not a continuing body. It all dies with the end of the year, which with an unwarranted success in obtaining an investigation approved would make a futility of it.

Nobody has been in touch with me and save for this letter to Conyers I'll take no initiatives. I've tried and today I don't have the time.

But what they are saying among themselves is that I have already done the work and all they have to do is pick it up. Ethics aside they don't know enough to do it well and they sure as hell can't do it completely if they don't make a mess. I would not do anything else to stop it but I'm certainly not going to be part of it.

Like Occam I seek the simple. It comes out this way: I've done the basic work and I'm doing the advance work. They know it. They have not been in touch with me. (I'm sure not with you or you'd have said so.) So where in the world are they coming from and where do they expect to go?

I'm in a good situation on the Ford transcript on everything but time. Jim and I decided to do nothing that would require the judge to do anything before the GOP convention, which we figured he would not. Jim is the lawyer and if there is anything he wants me not to do I'll not do it. However, I think that if we can't get prompt action or get adverse action I should hold a press conference and release all that frightful stuff. I think I told you about it. If I do you should read the entire file first. They're not going to let you into South Africa anyway. When I produce the proof I have that I've been trying to get this out of suppression since 1967 or 1968 I do not expect legitimate criticism. Ford's Department of Justice has been stonewalling this in court for about a year. The package is now just dandy. It is also a NYC story because

Ford was trying to cut the throat in GOP SECRET secrecy - of the faintly liberal man who is now dean of law at NYU. Among the reasons, Redlich defended Carl Braden. If you are too young, he is the Louisville former reporter who bought a home years ago so he could let a black family have it. It ruined Braden. One of the letters I have, to which Ford then reacted favorably, calls Redlich a nigger-lover. Some of those from extremist Congressmen are almost as bad. For Congressmen worse.... And who was the other guy Ford wanted to get? The partner of Pat Brown's father, Joe Ball. So radical he was Ehrlichman's lawyer.

When Jim is back I'll ask him to push on this one and if we do not get fast action to okay a press conference.

Best,