

LUMAX POLL AND TRIBUNE

A Monthly Poll of Negro Opinion
A Quarterly Organ of Negro Thought and Opinion

Almepa Lomax, Editor-Publisher

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April 13, 1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I hate to be thought a quack, but I cannot get a very disturbing similarity of events which might relate to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. out of my mind, and so, at whatever risk, I am impelled to write you.

I publish the above-named Poll monthly and the Tribune, a 'little' magazine when I can; but I covered the funeral of Dr. King for a newspaper, The Post, published at 2973 Sacramento st., Berkeley, Calif. 94705, a Negro weekly. I also serve The Post at present as a consultant, or contributing editor, in its efforts to build up its editorial content.

I just returned last night from Berkeley and after being away almost all week, what with the funeral, have just caught up on the daily papers; and I was struck by the similarity of reported activities of the suspected killer and a fictional killer I created in an unpublished book, "The Ten Most Wanted White Man". As the title would suggest, this man, who is sort of deranged by frustration over the continued humiliation of Negroes by the nonviolent movement and the continued violation of them by Deep South racists, picks out the ten racists from whose deaths he thinks the Negro would most benefit and goes out and kills them.

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I published the first five chapters in the Tribune. I am a former weekly newspaper publisher for 19 years of the Los Angeles Tribune, and I began the Tribune out of frustration while living in Tuskegee, Ala. in 1964-65. I started the Tribune, as a 'little magazine', as the Tuskegee Tribune, a mimeographed newspaper, and a large number of whites of the town, who were described by knowledgeable Negroes of the town as "members of the White Citizens Council" and Kluxer-types, subscribed.

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I have as many subscribers among Alabamians whom I know or suppose to be white, as I do among Negroes — not that there are many of either.

Covering the Tuskegee City Council couldn't hold my interest, as I had suspended publication of the Tribune as a newspaper in order to write creatively.

NOTE: Copy of letter received via routing slip from J. Harold Flannery, Civil Rights Division.

Wrote to LA (enc'd 2 Xerox copy)
1-Att (enc'd) 1-PR (enc'd) 1-ME (enc'd)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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and I left Tuskegee in February of 1965 and returned to Los Angeles.

I have continued to send the Tribune to my southern subscribers, including the whites, whenever I have brought it out.

Beginning with the 14th number in March of 1965, I serialized "The Ten Most Wanted White Men", and continued into the fifth chapter before I got a contract for the book from Houghton-Mifflin Co. Other than in the first chapter where my hero, or anti-hero, conceived his plan as a way out of his frustration and lists his intended victims, I didn't in the serialization give away his plans or modus operandi. However, the idea was there.

Also, the entire book of 36 ~~pages~~ ^{chapters} has been read by Houghton Mifflin, which eventually decided not to publish it, on the grounds that the anti-hero was not believable, and by Globe Press, which rejected it, too. The first ten chapters were read, and rejected, last Summer by Harpor & Row and have since been at Random House, along with the book's summary.

I hope you will not feel that I am suggesting that any of the readers of this book would be so insane as to assassinate Dr. King. However, the coincidence of your suspect apparently having abandoned a car in Atlanta, just walked away from it; belonging to the seaman's union in Mobile; renting the room in the rundown rooming house, and the actions of my anti-hero, or killer, is so striking that I hope it excuses this long and detailed letter. Perhaps it is my imagination, but the personality, the stride, etc., suggested by the newspaper stories, suggest my Josiah Herron, who likes to think of himself as "the Bronze Bomber", a sort of avenger of Negroes.

There is further the fact that while I was in Atlanta, I heard many people in the crowd outside the church and along the march say they feared, or had heard, that Rev. Abernathy, Stokely Carmichael, Congressman Adam Powell, and other Negro leaders were going to be "gotten". Some few people said they thought the killer might be standing on the sidewalk along the line of march.

I also heard that Negro extremists in Atlanta were planning to burn and blow up businesses, specifically Sears and others along Gordon Road, which is just above the Capitol Homes Housing Project where the car was parked in Atlanta. I lived from September 1 to Oct. 29, of 1965 in Atlanta and have a son in college there, though he is not an extremist or racist, and so have many leads there. I thought it notable that there was no mention of harming the housing project, even though many of the whites living there are openly hostile to Negroes passing there en route to shop on Gordon Road.

None of this may be of any value. However, I felt I had to relay it. Now that Mrs. King and Rev. Abernathy have resolved to continue the march to Washington, the same person or persons who were sufficiently exercised by distress as to kill Dr. King may attempt to harm them; and I felt that if I know anything which might remotely help solve the murder, I should relay it.

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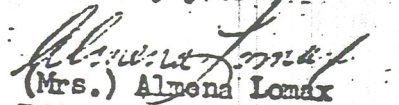
I do not keep the world's best records; but if you should like to look at my Alabama mailing list, I could type the names and addresses off the cards and send them to you. I think there are a couple in Birmingham.

My book is pretty much in disarray; one gets discouraged after three years. But if looking at it would shed any light, I think I could shuffle the chapters together. However, as you can see, I am wordy. It's about 400,000 words.

I will be at The Post Thursday and Friday, I think; but the address and phone number on the letterhead are my residence, where I do my other work.

I wish you the very best of luck in your investigation.

Sincerely yours,


(Mrs.) Almena Lomax
Editor-Publisher
Lomax Poll and Tribune

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P. S.: If you should have anyone from the local office of the FBI contact me, would you have them phone first?