

10/24/71

Dear Wayne,

On an early-morning mutual network broadcast I heard what is not new, carrying a Memphis dateline, that an unnamed "former attorney for James Earl Ray" had said he was not worried about having been caught because he expected a Wallace victory and that Wallace would pardon him.

If it could be either Foreman or Lanes, I'm inclined to believe Foreman more likely, so I'm writing to ask which, and especially if Foreman, what is he doing in your bleeding city just when the blood is flowing?

This is all hunch, as you can see, but in Foreman's past is the unpaid defense of cops accused and apparently guilty of undue violence against the accused.

You have 23 prospective clients for him.

I'd find it fascinating if he were there for any such purpose.

If so, I'd appreciate the fullest possible backgrounding and any clips possible.

Another and I think possible but less likely reason for his presence could be to represent some of your local gangster types. If this is the case, my interest would be no less keen.

While I've been spending most of my time on other things lately and am completing a book on another subject, I still pick up odds and ends. One is a couple of illegible typed copies of AP dispatches from Atlanta quoting two different cab drivers as having carried the alleged Galt a short distance immediately after the King ass. You should, if this interests you, be able to find more legible copies in your morgues.

Frank's book is now scheduled for April, I believe the 10th, to coincide with King's birthday, his approach giving this an especially ghoulish touch. McMillan says his will not be out until about election time 1972. Both have asked Ray for interviews, both, as I recall, having made similar offers, a) good round sums for it and b) to stay away from anything connected with the assassination.

And FYI, unless Bud or Bob tells you, one of the key precedents used, Bud thinks with some effectiveness ("it actually woke those judges up") at Jackson was provided by Jimmie, from inside the jail. There were three in all that seem to have taken the precaution by surprise for they are in one way or another in point. One was the reversal of William Williams, another a reversal of Faquin, and on requests for evidentiary hearings. Jimmie may be (and is) inept, but he is also pretty sharp.

I had had a fear that from desperation he would make another attempt to break out and would not survive it, but Jerry, who has seen him several times since I did, the last to take McMillan's request for an interview just a couple of weeks ago, assures me to the contrary. However, because of this fear, I have left things out of my letters that I'd otherwise have discussed. Gerald Frank was on a radio show in NYC conducted by Artie Shaw, the former band leader. He there said that all of Ray's correspondence is subjected to special treatment to discover whether there is hidden secret writing and that all of it is xeroxed. I'm not sure if he said for the FBI, but I'd be willing to assume it.

Does that update you. If you know nothing of this lawyer quote, could you ask whoever finds Luvall on the night side? And remember the folded-over clipping of which you gave me a xerox? I'm still interested in the part that was hidden.

Best,