Dear Dave, 8/21/85

I made copies of Jimmy Ray's letter to read and markup and file when I could and I've just gotten to that, thus the delay in sending you the enclosed copy. It has in it a few things he did not suggest before, including that it was not merely by accident that he got to the DeSoto.

Nor to Garner's flophouse.

It is the one thing that makes sense of it, that he was directed to both places.

I have no reason not to believe that he is telling the truth in saying that he did not buy the beer. I've just thrown in the bit about it not being cold enough to enjoy. He may or may not react to it. But he should be beginning to get the notion that he was being set up.

I've not told him what I know about Atlanta but I've tried to give him something to think about and perhaps address. It has been a month and he has not replied.

Maybe he won't and maybe he was then being moved to Brushy, which Jerry told me.

Interesting how little things he did not tell me earlier slip out.

I have no doubt that the Atlanta map was not marked with King areas by him.

I'm surprised that he does not remember that from the guilty plea hearing and from my book.

What also is surprsing about it is that it does not have the location of the parking lot in which he abandoned the car. That means he was told after he was given the map. Or it was written down for him. In turn that suggests that a rendezvous after the Memphis business, whatever it was, was prearranged for Atlanta. In some ways that makes more sense than his going there for his laundry, which is what he told me. That he left laundry there indicates that he expected to return, of course. But before he returned there he knew that King had been killed and he knew that something had gotten the police to the Memphis area where he'd been. He described the scene to me quite accurately, with what was not in the papers.

Interesting, huh?

Harold

after he left Memphis, Atlanta or perhaps in Memphis a B'ham

Dear Jimmy, 7/22/85

One of the things you say in your 7/18 and his incredibly bad behavior last night prompt me to again caution you about Jerry, who is absolutely crazy in his sick beliefs and self-impirtance. With regard to locating the DeSoto Motel, you say that "A family Jerry knows in Memphis checked it out and said it was on 78" highway. It is obvious that first of all there was no checking by that family and that it was no big deal for Jerry to have checked it out personally. I am aware that you are limited in your ability get have things checked and that you thus depend on Jerry, but I want you to be aware that you can't take his word for anything. Mark Lane and other people wanting to each you have puffed him up and he has swallowed all of their flattery and come to believe it. While they all laugh at him behind his back. In his truly superior moments, few as they are, Jerry is at his best merely a consummate fool. At all other times he is totally nuts. Example:

Last night he phoned me, in all 10 times! I hung uo ten times, two or three times by merely taking the phone up and then putting it down. It was between 10:30 and 11 and, not feeling well, I was in bed and had just fallen asleep. I asked him why he was calling me after normal bedtime and he said he'd been to see you. I told him I wasn't feeling well, had been asleep, so to cut out the crap he always goes into and tell me anything that was on any importance. First he said that you are being moved to Brushy today and then he said that you told him you'd heard from me about his calling me late and getting me up and that you do not like that. So, I asked him, why do you do precisely that now. He started running off at the mouth about irrelevancies and I told him that if he didn't stop I'd hang up, which I did when he continued spouting off. First thing he said when he called back, in his cheap imitation of the cheapest of poor grade B Hollywood tough guy stuff is "I gotta go up there." So, I hung up again, and he phoned back still again. I then told him that he knows I'm not well, knows I was asleep because of it, knows I've told him I have no interest in his political beliefs or pontifications or what he calls jokes or the truly ugly noises he calls singing, so it he has anything to say that means anything to go ahead and do it without any more foolishness or I'd hang up again. As soon as he made a crack about my hours not being normal, his word, I hung up again. On and on like this, rubbish just flowing from his slack jaw until I'd hang up. Finally, next to the last time I told him not to dare phone me after 9 because my wife, whose sleep he also interrupted, and I both need rest. When he persisted then I hung up again. The last time he called back I told him that I did not want to hear from him again, ever, and that if he phoned me one more time I'd get in touch with the phone company and see if I could not arrange that as a persistent nusiance caller he could be denied a phone wherever he may be. I meant it, too. And finally we were able to get to sleep. It took me some time, after which my sleep was OK, but my wife did not have any decent rest. The whole things was and is utterly irrational, yet he persisted and persisted and persisted. And what he mails me, now that I've refused to listen to his childish tapes, is political garbage he is too childish to be able to recognize for what it is. Of course I can't waste time on that junk. But any time he phones again I'm just hanging up because years of warning him have been wasted and we just are not going to tolerate his abuses any more. I'm serious about complaining to the phone company if I hear from him again. Around here, at least, they take such complaints seriously and then do something about them. They even will prosecute. So there is a chance that wherever it may be they'oo do likewise.

Back to the De Soto again. You say now, among other things, "I think I may have chnaged rooms after checking in but am not sure of this." That is one of the things I wanted you to remember on your own. The maid and the manager when I was there both told me that you'd done this. Perhaps you'd like to try to recall why you switched. What may help you recall this is what you remember about it that is quite correct, " on the left side of the highway going south, and shaped like a square horseshoe

inside." Try to visualize your approach as you got there and I'm inclined to believe that you'll recognize that you were not on a superhighway of any kind, and then what happened hwen and after you checked it. This is of no particular interest to me and I'm not clear on how you can do yourself any good on using it but I'm taking this time so that you'll be credible if and when you use what you do recall. Your mere allegation that you were there would not be credible and your description of the joint is something you could have heard from another.

There remains something unique about the DeSoto. And I'm sure there was but one motel of that name there. The name is from that county, which is of that name, by the way. I'm surprise that you have no recollection, apparently, of the uniqueness of that motel. Clearly, you were not aware of thos in advance or you'd have no trouble remembering it now. Or a reason for switching your accomodations within it.

This, you ought be aware, raises more questions, perhaps in any litigation you initiate. How did you know about it? Why did you go so far out of your way to psend a night there only to witch to the opposite side of town the next day and to a motel that, too, had something unique about it?

As I recall you told me that Raoul told you to go to the Rebel. I do not recall that you told me when he told you or that you and he had contact at the DeSoto, either when youwere there or that he told you to go to it. It is not on the road from Corinth, so nobody will believe that you justh blundered into it while driving. You did tell me that he, Raoul, visited you at the Rebel.

You have the same situation with regard to Atlanta and to the map the FBI claimed you marked up. You appar not to recall it but a lurid description of the markings was included in the Beasley narration at the guilty plea. You say if the FBI had such a map it would have been on the front page of the Times years ago. I t ink it was at guilty-plea time. It was leaked earlier, as I recall, and went into the case record then. In any event, aside from what is on that map, those King locations, who marked up the map for you is a question, who marked the cloverleaf where you'd leave the main highway, the area of the Garner flophouse, etc. I have no problem in believing that Raoul or an associate of his did it for you and I see nothing inconsistent in this, but do you not realize that to others it can have special meanings and indicate a conspiracy? If I can see you unwitting in this, can you see that others can interpret this and what goes along with it as witting?

On the map itself, the FBI isn't lying in claiming that it does not have the map but is lying in claiming to know nothing about where it is. First of all it has records that tell it where it is and second of all, I told it in my FOIA suit. They gave it to Canale and I saw it in Bubba Blackwell's collection of FBI scrimshaw. But they made photos of several sections, including the king-related markings, and they do have those. It you want them and they claim they can't find them, tell them to consult their file in my C.A. 75-1996. Which, I remind you, is the litigation in which you declined to join me.

I am not inclined to believe that the FBI added markings on that map after you last saw it for a simple reason that would not have been lost upon it. They got it before you ruined yourself with Hanes. So, they had to assume that you'd have good counsel and they knew very well that using any different ink would be ruinous to them. Analysis of the inks is childsplay for it and others and has been for years. When could someone you knew have done this? Tell me if you want me to make a guess.

Going back again to the DeSoto and what relates, you say you did not get the beer, and I have no trouble with that. But I've seen the records of the checking, and that, too, was when the FBI had to expect a vigorous defense, so it would not risk any phony records. They traced the bag and beer to the Southaven bait and minnow shop,

But you left that area the morning of 4/2, and the beer and bag were found the evening of 4/4, when any beer bought 4/2 would hardly have been cool enough to enjoy. So how come there was beer left to be found and traced back to very close to where you were? (They and Canale were satisfied that it was close to the drug store where you got the toilet goods.) Have you given this any thought? If not, I think you should now. It is obvious that anyone meeting you the afternoon of 4/4 who wanted beer would have bought it just before meeting you and had it cool enough to enjoy. Raoul knew, it would appear, that he could have gotten beer on the very premises in which he met you. So there is a suggestion that someone got a bag of beer that would have led the FBI to the DeSoto which, for its own later reasons, it preferred to ignore. The FBI did check the DeSoto and it did talk to the maids who were aware of your switch to a new room, although t is is not in any report I've seen or heard of. So, whoever left that beer to be traced correctly anticipated what the FBI would do but did not anticipate its political interests - no conspiracy.

Jensen was Memphis SAC in 1968-9, but the agent who had most knowledge is Joe Hester, who was the case agent. Last I heard he intended to remain in the area after retirement.

If as I think you should, you think about some of what I say above, you may then want to keep in mind that I have no trouble believing your story about the laundry and that you were in Miss April 1, not Atlanta. I also have no trouble believing that your laundry did not walk to the Piedmont from Garner's.

I'm returning the photostat of the transfer of the DeSoto. I don't recall who the owner was in 1973 but I do recall that Bob Livingston said he knew him. It may have been Langston. The manager gave me the name so Bob could speak to him and get his approval for getting the registration. Which, among other things, he never did.

Hope you don't have too much trouble with the typos.

Sincerely,

back to the above . . .

got on it was from a deputy sheriff guarding me in jail in early 1969. I described it to him & he said it was the 'desoto. Later I was told it was located on hy. 51 5700 in Southhaven. But then a family Jerry knows in Memphis checked it out and said it was on hy. 78. They even spoke to a nearby party who knew the owner JP Langston and the party said Langston had died in 1974 (see enclosure, and return it when ever you get around to it). As to the Motel location, now I don't know where it is located. I assumed it would be listed in the old phone directory. Plus there may be two Desotos. The attys. I had in 1968-69 were only interested in loot from Huie thus they found out nothing. I don't recall anything about the registration. I think I may have changed rooms after checking in but am not sure of this. The Desoto was just a stopper-over until the Rebel, as was the one in Corinth. Re: the credibility. I stayed there so in that respect I wouldn't need to establish credibility providing I could provide it, which I believe I can.

I understand that I'll get nothing from the FOIA suits except maybe make a record. And I have never though the FBI done in K. They would be foolish to do that. They used informants, ect., for that type business, as does other type intelligence agencies, eg., cia recent blowing up of a building in Beirut then claiming their clients got "out of hand". Of course if one hires another to kill in the U.S. he is guilty of murder, but the gov. is not so dumb as to let someone claimed the fbi/cia or what ever hired them.

As to the FBI investigation of the Desoto & Corinth. Jensen in Memphis lives in that town; he now lives in an affluent suburb, Germantown. And the FBI agent in charge in Corinth in 1968-69 is now Sheriff of that county. Plus there is Holman who was in the fbi then police commissioner in 1968. This doesn't mean they killed anyone, rather that they could control certain aspects of the investigation of the K case. Now the media moguls would say they would not dare do somethi g, that Hoover didn't know about or, he would send them to Alaska. I don't think Hoover had all that power. In a book by a guy named Sullivan--an ex-fbi official who was killed in a hunting accident-he claimed Hoover was ill informed, and that Deloach in effect was black-mailing Hoover by suggesting he might have pres, Johnson retire Hoover. Anyway I think local fbi agents-in-charge (especially in the south where the local agents were southerners & pimps for the establishments, rather than racists) had the muscle to cover up certain things and not to be worried about the consequences.

Also, when I filed the FOIA suit in Nashville for the Desoto records, I mailed one paper to Jensen: this paper suggested to the court that the JD obtain an affidavit from Jensen. Thus far neither the court has never mentioned Jensen nor has the ag. This is unusual since the Judge Tom Wiesman, was recently making a big play to th media by attacking an asst. atty. Gen. named Wm. Reynolds. Conversely in the FOIA suit his opinions sound like a mouth-piece for Reynolds department.

Met with Ronald at Desoto?

As to the beer, about all the evidence [redacted] I can confirm as mine; however, I never drink beer and even if I order it in a tavern while waiting on someone I usually don't finish it. So I doubt if the 6-pack they found was mine.

You ask how the fbi got the Birmingham motel address I stayed. I told Huie about it and when the "Look" mag. article came out in April 1969 the fbi went there & found the registration. I have their Airtel saying they used info I gave Huie to find it.

As to the Atlanta map. I have ask the FBI for it in an foia suit, and they say it don't exist as the press describes it. I also ask the "Select Committee" about it, after Gerold Frank had run his mouth about it, and they told me in 'Brushy Mountain it didn't exist. What the map had marked out by me was 'the street we entered Atlanta on (I don't recall the name), then down Peach tree street to the beginning of the street where I rented the room at on 14th street, then down 14th street to the place I lived. The other marking, a circle, was in the area of a restaurant I visited 10 or 12 blocks north of the 14th st. residence. And, I know K didn't have offices and or residences in all of these areas: the restaurant area was white. Further, if the fbi had such a map (all k's residenses, ect.), it would have been on the front page of the NY "Times" years ago.

As to the Mustang, I think I told you the AG is demanding a trial in the matter. I don't know why he is doing this since a jury is my only hope in a law suit, plus the ag files would be subject to subpoena in a trial.

Are you certain you were on hy 51 at the 'Desoto? If so then I'll recheck in Memphis & maybe raised the issue in the Mustang law suit, especially if the state contends the car was used in a felony.

In concluding, the description I gave the deputy sheriff in Memphis of the motel was on the L. side of the highway going south, and shaped like a square horse shoe inside.
left

Sincerely:

J. Ray