

AM 1/28

January 26, 2000

Dear Harold,

I hope this letter finds you and Lillian doing ok, despite the weather of late. Up until this past weekend it had been very mild down here -- temperatures in the 60s and, occasionally, the 70s. In fact the narcissus we got from you some years ago were already coming up. But winter hit with a vengeance this past weekend. We got 4 inches of snow and then some ice. Fortunately, Spartanburg missed the big snow from the nor'easter that hit you. However, just 20 miles south of here one town received 12 inches of snow!

My Interim project, "The evidentiary hearing that time forgot...", is now drawing to a close. I am having students in groups of 2 doing a critical analysis of different portions of the transcript. I was a bit disappointed with the presentations I heard yesterday and am hoping for better today. We began the project by reading Frame-Up and also seeing that Fox TV special that aired back in '93, in which you participated. For the past couple weeks they have been reading portions of the transcript, and we have gotten together for discussion. At least one student in the project, who is pre-law, seems to have gotten a lot out of this experience. She also took the Martin Luther King seminar I taught last semester. Another student made a 3-day trip to Memphis and took some pictures of the scene. It appears that it has not changed that much, aside from the Lorraine Motel now being a civil rights museum.

Regardless of what the students have gotten out of this, I have really learned a lot personally. I had a chance to read the transcript carefully and took about 120 pages of notes. It is a fascinating document, although its value could have been enhanced considerably if Foreman and Haile had been compelled to testify. I enjoyed the intellectual challenge of trying to anticipate the line of attack of each side. I thought Haile was often rather sarcastic in his tone. In terms of cross examination, I thought Fensterwald really did a job on that Memphis State professor, Joe Moore, who said he had discussions with Foreman about the case. Prof. MacDonell certainly destroyed key aspects of the state's case, especially regarding the windowsill, and the gouge which was in the front half of it. Perhaps the weakest part was Jerry Ray's testimony, which I thought Haile did a reasonable job of undermining. Nonetheless, I fully agree that the evidence presented was enough to exculpate Ray. I hope my students will also be able to see this clearly.

Clay Ogilvie sent me a computer disk of Whoring. I think Posner outdid himself in this latest attempt at re-writing history. As you bring out, I believe it is without question he had help writing it. I wonder if there might not be a paper trail on this -- FBI documents which might disclose any contacts with Posner or Random House (as you found with Bishop, O'Leary, et. al.). And it continues to amaze me how he gets away with flaunting his ignorance and lies. Although his book on Ray did not do as well as Case Closed, he still seems to be the darling of the media.

Even if your efforts did not succeed in getting Ray the trial he deserved, I believe you did a tremendous service to Ray (especially in the way you approached the case) and of course to history in making a record of some of the crucial aspects of this bizarre miscarriage of justice. I am sure I will continue to use this document in teaching, and perhaps even playing a role in trying to set the historical record straight.

I have not had an opportunity to sit down and revise my expose of Time's coverage of the JFK assassination, but I hope to get to that before too long.

We were happy to receive Lil's card of thanks for the amaryllis we sent for Christmas. We hope it is still blooming. Hanh-Trang and I do want to come up for a visit. I am sure we will be able to come up over a weekend sometime in late Feb. or early March. Let me know if there would be any problem with this. We would probably stay with her cousin who lives just outside of Wash. DC.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerry".