

Mr. Walter Giance  
Bantam Books  
666 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y. 10019

5/25/76

Dear Walter,

While Lil is outside working in her flowerbeds I've been reading. Today's Washington Post has a long article on the millionaire oreo William T. Coleman. He will be a central character in the latter part of Agent Oswald. You may recall reading and liking the first five chapters. (I'm anxious to return to this and am working to that end while writing The King Conspiracies.)

Dick Gregory came to mind in a line of thinking after reading the article. Do you realize that except for a great reporter and a magnificent person, Les Payne, in all the work I've done on the King assassination not a single black hand has ever been extended? And that most blacks were opposed and in every case where I asked, help, no matter how minor, was refused?

Jim and I have made what I regard as remarkable progress in court. Clarence Kelley admitted this pressure, about which not a word has appeared in print, in Black Perspectives when Les was questioning him. Kelley admitted that the only way we'll learn more about the King assassination is through FOIA suits, of which mine is the only one. Jim has been superb in this, doing just enough in court, never too much; and building a fine record.

We have the fourth status call June 11. I think this number is exceptional. I've never experienced it. Each time the judge lays out more performance for the government. Each time we garner a few crumbs.

We are now in an unprecedented situation in which, if we are successful, we will need financial help. Jim and I have been entirely alone to now. I've paid hundreds of dollars in search fees alone, plus the cost of copying documents and pictures.

We have filed a motion to compel the DJ and FBI to inventory each and every King record. There are an admitted 200,000 documents in various FBI field offices and 3,500 in Washington. There is legal precedent for this move. The judge will rule, I think, June 11. Her decision will be influenced by the responses of the government to the case of withholding and unjustifiable suppressions we've made.

While I would hope that blacks of means would want these records available and to begin with listed in a permanent public record available to all (not just me), I'm wondering how I'll pay for xeroxing alone.

Corliss Lamont gave me a contribution of \$1,000 for my work. He made this offer the Sunday night before I last saw you. I felt obligated to tell him how I'd use it, entirely other than for myself. I decided to give it to Jim to help bear the costs of this case and his work. I've done it, notwithstanding our need of a new roof almost entirely applied and my owing for most of it., or the costs of JFK information suits. (Lamont approved.)

We may get to a point where we can depose some of the FBI people. If we do we'll not be able to because we can't pay the costs. We are closer to being able to do ~~with~~ this with CIA people in another suit but knowing we still can't pay for it I decided to use Lamont's kindness for the King work.

I presume you are still speaking to Dick. When you can would you ask if he is willing to help with these costs? Only copying and perhaps court if we can depose. If he tries he can turn others on. Thanks and our best to you both,