

7/15/69

Dear Billie,

Glad to get your yesterday's letter.

I presume you doped out who has been in touch. The correspondence continues. Apparently I am getting through, for yesterday I got a call from J.B. Stoner. I expect to hear from him again. He was then about to catch a plane to appear at the hearing on a new trial for Ray, today.

This eminently undependable barrister tells me he has "proof" the FBI plotted King's murder, that he has two informants (that is, FBI informants inside the radical right) to whom offers of \$25,000 were made, etc.

To me these developments are as fortuitous as they are repugnant. As long as I can control the conditions, I will undertake the relationship. Until I hear from Ron whether or not he can bring himself to represent such a work, I will wait. I think it could be worthwhile. And what a switch!

As I told you, I have written many of the SCLC people and others and have yet to get a single response. Soon I will again write Rev. Abernathy (I cannot write them all). I'll send you a copy. I am certain these people have been manipulated by government and have been cast (historically) as black Judases. Needless additional tragedies with potential for added harm. More, their reasons for silence on the FBI's bugging are invalid, for the King "secrets" are not and have not been and are now being published again by the extreme right.

I will this time be asking Abernathy for whatever information they have and I'll take the liberty, believing that Ron represents him, of telling him you can assure him I do not have two heads.

Something with a medical designation of some kind of exhaustion has hit me. It has slowed me down, but I'm working away, only slower. I hope now to have everything drafted by the time Ron returns. The extent now is about 45,000 words. And there will be much more. It may well have to be cut, but it will be a thorough documentation and, were rational consideration possible, will be more than what is needed for a new trial, which would be the first.

You can sid me, as you offer. But first consider whether Ron would want this (the enclosed carbon is for him). I think it is important for all of them for people like Abernathy, Bevel, Jackson, Lyss, Eskridge and the others to tell me what they know, at least put me in the position where I do not, to preserve my own integrity, have to go into what I would call "the Black Abdications". I have already written the part where I prove the government misrepresented what they had said. I defend them as best I can, without seeming to undertake a defense. They did not endorse the "deal" on Ray. But when, to a man, they refuse to interest themselves while calling "ing "the black prophet", refuse to lift a finger or even without obligation look at evidence, they make a record that may later hurt them and those necessary things they have, to a degree, come to symbolize. Aside from hearing from them I'd like a copy of the letter Bevel gave the police. Hurriedly,

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L\$
14 July 1969

Mr. Harold Weisberg
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Dear Harold,

I received both of your letters last week and passed them immediately on to Ron -- it was because of that that I waited 'til now to answer.
send

He has directed me to/~~contact~~ two of your published books to our London counterpart, with pertinent information re sales and lack of houses here in the States.

Ron also informed me that he wants to give the book his personal attention and that he'll do immediately upon returning in August.

I checked the information on page 56...

Continue to keep in touch--let me know if I can aid you in the least.

Sincerely,


Billie

WC:h