

Dear Congressman Lewis and Mr. Young,

8/1/98

Having heard nothing from you since I wrote you a month ago in anticipation of what the department has done I expect nothing from either of you. However, I send each of you a copy of my today's letter to the associate attorney general. That will give you an inkling of what is up and what did and did not happen. Of what you separated yourself from, which may represent how far you have moved from your brave youths, I presume with what you regard as good reason. However, it does not seem to be consistent with what Congressman Lewis told the Black Journalists convention, that "you must never, ever forget [that] history," speaking of blacks as "targets".

There is a bit of the history of what happened and what did not happen I do want to have as a matter of record for the future.

When I was Ray's investigator in the one way something might be done about the King assassination I could get no help from a single black in Memphis. Or from the SCLC. I bought copies of my book and sent them to Ralph Abernathy, Mr. Young and Stoney Cooks that I recall and through people on the SCLC's radio and TV component sent a few other copies. I heard from nobody. I asked chief counsel to speak to Mrs. King for her help in getting what help was possible from blacks and perhaps the SCLC. She told me to see Harry Wachtel in New York. I went there and got no farther than the reception desk.

You may want to remember that in addition to those 80,000 pages of records that had been withheld until I sued and got them disclosed I have some records of my own work and I have the transcripts of those ^{not} two weeks of evidentiary hearings in our effort to bring the case to a trial. What material it is for a thesis! As a matter of belief I make all I got from all those FOIA lawsuits freely available to all so any student will have free and unsupervised access to all of this. And it is not at all as that literary whore whose book is indistinguishable from a book written by or for the FBI, Gerald Posner, indicates in his most dishonest of books. ~~It~~ (And with himself as competition, the competition for that rank in dishonesty was great!)

I wish I knew of a black book publisher. I think he'd like my Whoring with History: How the Gerald Posners Protect the King Assassination. In addition to eviscerating Posner, for the second time, I bring withheld information to light. He and the others also mislead blacks who care.

That conspiracy he alleges did not exist. It was made up by a felon who suspected an associate was an FBI informer, to smoke him out, as it did. As the House assassins committee knew and ignored. And it had a black chairman.

More history involving blacks. When Ray's sister, Carol Pepper, was called to testify she was familiar with my work and she wanted me to be with her. When Delegate Fauntroy entered the room in which he was holding a hearing with no public admitted he threw me out. And I was, as he knew, the case investigator.

Congressman Stokes did not dare pull that one when at a public hearing John Ray asked me to sit with him and his lawyer, not with the TV cameras as well as the press to report it.

Only one black journalist ^{ever} sought me out, Les Payne, then minority affairs reporter for Newsday. I had the ^{greatest} ^{respect} respect for him. He and his wife visited us and I spent a night with him and his family. A fine person, an impressive man and a fine reporter. Who without talking to me, when Ray was dying, rehashed the official ^{King} assassination mythology.

I wrote Rev. Billy Kyles three times before I went to Memphis and never got a response. He had important evidence and didn't know it. Doesn't, I suppose.

I phoned Jesse Jackson, the ⁷ in Chicago, three times, without response. When a black friend then a TV producer heard of this he phoned Jackson and he got no response.

As soon as he went public I wrote ^{Dr. King} Mr. King, ~~Dr.~~, and again, no response.

I don't think that any one of those I've named did not care but I do think not one cared enough - or cared more for something else. Some were probably misled by those who had special interests.

If either of you would like to send someone to look at some of this information it and the use of our copier will be his ~~or~~ or hers. We are a little more than an hour from Baltimore or Washington. If you do and he is a lawyer I believe that some of the evidentiary hearing transcript would be of interest, especially the testimony that was unrefuted and uncontradicted by our forensic expert. He made scientific examinations of the fragment removed from Dr. King's body and of the windowsill on which, in the official fiction, the rifle rested.

Reminds me of more of the history. I wanted one autopsy picture to show to this expert before he testified and asked for a copy under discovery. The state assistant attorney general, a black Uncle ^{and} named Haynes, opposed it and told the judge I sought a picture of "human nakedness." Of an autopsy picture from about the waist up! And with that indecency he prevailed so we could not show that to the expert when he was on the ~~stand~~ stand, either.

A word about me: when I was a patient in Walter Reed Hospital during World War II and was in the reconditioning section ^{near} at Beltsville ~~near~~ I led a sit-down strike when a black soldier was denied permission to be taken to the Greenbelt swimming

pool with the rest of us. We did not win but other whites joined me in refusing to go. That was in 1943.

The experience I took to this work is that of a reporter, an investigative reporter, a Senate investigator and editor (part of an expose of Pull Connor in floggings in 1936 or 1937, but nobody paid attention to his records then) and during World War II I went from Walter Reed to join the OSS.

That Senate committee was known as the Civil Liberties Committee.

Please excuse my typing and writing. I regret they can be no better.

If you people and your friends and associates accept this Department trick you will, I think, live long enough to regret it.

You do not have to ask for what Dexter King misguidedly asked for, what the FBI can ~~dis-~~^{dissipate} dissipate easily.

And there is little doubt about it, the FBI did not kill King. So that can also kick back.

Please excuse my directness but I come from a persecuted people, too. I can't believe what is the fact, that when this truly great man was assassinated, a ~~maf~~ form of lynching, not a single black did a single meaningful thing to try to get the truth out other than Congressman John Conyers.

I add, in closing, that not a single black publication was in touch with me to ask any questions or see any records or even to ask how the investigation was going.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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