

King - lawsuit are

Dear Dave,

3/22/93

I've finished with what I can without some checking, going over the second package, the page delayed. Your suggestions in the notes at the end of Rosetta Stones, beginning with explaining it, sound important so I've laid that aside for when I can think of it only and more clearly. In a minute of two, I hope, after I integrate the pages in the chapter Waketh the Watchman. *Let's this a.m.*

I do not recall why the Never Again chapter is enclosed, with a hole-punched copy, because I see no corrections with it. So I'll check that against my copy.

I got off to a slow start this morning feeling weaker than usual when I awakened. *Happened before.* I think this probably was because I was up only once after retiring. When I awaken during the night now I sit and read for a while before returning to bed to be able to breathe normally and get enough oxygen working again. The breathing interruptions from the sleep apnea reduce the oxygen I take in and can use. Also my heart beats rather slowly and that also means the available oxygen is reduced. So I sat and read for about an hour until I felt I was again up to present snuff.

In the brown envelope I'll be mailing when I go out for my walking is a copy of a letter to the ^{Memphis} Commercial-Appeal asking for a copy of the story I refer to and for copies of the records it got under FOIA. If this reaches you first, it had a sensational issue yesterday, reporting Army intelligence surveillances of blacks going back to World War I. It had 7 or 8 agents spying on King at the time of his assassination, the story says, according to 1 a.m. yesterday CBS radio net news.

After I wrote in the very early morning I had an evening phone call from Wayne Chastain. If you did not know or forget he was a Press-Scimitar reporter in Memphis. He is now a lawyer. He was very nice and helpful when I was there on the Ray appeal but he cooled and for years I've not heard from him. He fathered several of the myths, like the eggs-and-sausage man and I think the one relating to Jack Youngblood I'd tried to persuade him they are not relevant but he loved them dearly. He seems to have broken off when I sent him the FBI records making it clear there is nothing to his eggs/sausage approach.

He was quite excited about the story. He says the C-A has three full pages on the inside plus what it has on the front page. He promised to go right out, get a copy, and mail me the stories, for from his account there are three. This will make copying and using the copy awkward so if you want that story it will be easier for you to use if you get one from the paper. If you do not we can copy it for you. Or perhaps you might get a copy from one of the services that provide typed copies of stories and news from radio or TV.

The C-A was a very reactionary paper when I was there. Its city editor, Angus McEachern, pronounced McCarran, was openly antagonist to me. He let me look at what they had in the morgue but he would not let me make copies of anything. Turned out that he is not the top editor with the death of the man he succeeded. When I asked Wayne about him Wayne replied, "Why he worked for the FBI!" Wayne's explanation of his going with so sensational a story

is that with all the time and money invested in it under the editor he followed he did not dare not use it properly. He may be correct. But if he did work for the FBI, and my recollection of that report is that he was a clerk while going to college, pinning so much of the domestic spying on the Army can tend to relieve the FBI some. Maybe not.

Wayne told me that he had seen several cars outside the church when King was there, and from recollection that would have had to be at the time of his unplanned and unexpected Mountaintop speech, cars that seemed out of place, perhaps with aerials that prompted his suspicions. He said he'd told me about that and more about it. I have no recollection of it now. In any event, if it turns out that the Army was there, in such force in particular, that would have required immediate response to information obtained by some form of surveillance, on phones or from a living source.

This is because King had decided not to go there and had sent Abernathy in his stead. Abernathy phoned to tell King the crowd was insiting on him and King went to the church immediately. I think it is the Centenary Baptist Church.

In think about this now of course the Army could have been there expecting him to be.

That would not have required tapping any phones, etc. *Which Wayne says he did.*

Anyway, I think that for much more than Memphis and King this is a major disclosure. It indgiates that the Army has to have been prepared for and involved in major domestic-intelligence operations at that time. The story reports also before then. And I'm sure that it continued thereafter.

I heard and saw nothing more about this story. It was not on yesterday's CBS net radio news at 4 a.m. ~~yesterday~~, when I listened to it again. It was not on any evening TV news that I saw, which was ABC's and NBC's, CBS had sports at that hour. If was not in the Wash. Post, not even a brief mention that I saw. The Dallas Morning News had only a tiny report of the story's existence. This can be because it is copyrighted and because Scripps-Howard, which owns the paper, wanted first use. Remains to be seen if there is anything further on it or if the press has again fallen in ranks to protect the government.

So, I think that if you want this story you'd best ask the paper for it immediately because it may well have no spare copies soon.

Best,

Harold