

Mr. Jeff Brugh
L.A. Times
233 Peachtree St., # 708
Atlanta, Ga. 30303

5/20/80

Dear Jeff,

Thanks for the interesting Greensboro piece and your note of 5/14. A few days after that tragedy I was in Greensboro speaking on the King assassination to a black group and ~~xxx~~ there was no mention of it.

Can't say that I know Bill Pepper but I know of him. He phoned once and I told him I'd have nothing to do with him because of his Lane association and that whatever he thinks of Lane and his abilities no Lane effort will result in anything worthwhile and what I have is not going to be wasted that way. He is an able lawyer who helped Flo Kennedy rep. Jerry Ray before the House assassins. He also tried to crib some of my work and that of my friend Les Payne (Newsday) but Les was no fool and gave him nothing. As of last year, through another writer I'd helped, a woman who had had no investigative or investigative-reporting experience, I learned by accident that he had a King assassination book at her publisher's and they didn't go for it.

Abernathy is one of the many who would not lift a finger, even respond to letters, years ago when a little help could have gone a long way in doing something about the King assassination. Nobody in SEIC would or did, in Atlanta or elsewhere.

He aligned himself uncritically with Lane once Coretta gave the OK, which also was uncritical and unthinking of her. She also did not respond then. Abby Mann was the catalyst. The result is the ~~hastidious~~ abortion of the House assassins committee, which made doing anything that much more difficult now.

I'll give you whatever I can but only with the understanding that what you print is all that anyone else can use or have.

Because of another effort by the FBI and CIA to whipsaw me in two court cases I should soon be getting something I was able to spot in a withheld record now described as an informal three-page biography. The CIA had it, pretended it didn't, and in the whipsaw effort I learned that it had a second copy returned by the FBI. Now that they are caught, and in court, they say they are processing, of as 21 days ago -under a 10-day law and three years after the FOIA request. I was before the appeals court in the CIA case yesterday and they did not fare well, even with a partisan on the panel.

If and when I get it I'm going to have a ~~praxis~~ problem because two of you have equal interest in it and I want you both to have a fair opportunity with it. The other is George Lardner. I tried to phone him after I returned from Washington last evening. They have him in Miami, I suppose covering that tragedy. I left word. Without having had time to think this through and with a great amount of added work facing me as soon as I can get to it today, to do something more about the JFK FBI records cases, it appears to me that the fair way is to give you each copies at the same time. I think the only way I can do this is via your DC bureau. So please think about this and be able to let me know if it seems OK to you. I do not think they'd have informal bios of King or Ray, so logically the thing may be of that paranoid, highly-placed man, now unidentified. The chances are that they'll try to eliminate all identifiers, if they do not withhold in toto, but I think the info, if disclosed to any degree, can be significant. If it turns out this way I think a beginning will be to try to make some kind of identification and then to try to locate the character. ...Please excuse the typos. I've got two full file drawers of material to review and encapsulate to keep the FBI from getting away with more dirtworks and wiping out much of what else is possible in bringing JFK materials to light. There are many. In the oldest of all FOIA cases I got another rmeand and now have to begin that one all over again. Fortunately, that district judge has been silent, as I hope he can remain for about a month because I also have about a file drawer of new material in that case to review and prepare for Jim's use. Best wishes,

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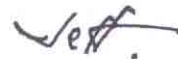
Dear Harold:

I enclose the piece on Greensboro, where the 14 klansmen and Nazis are scheduled to go on trial later this month or in June.

While I'm in Miami, I'll try to keep an ear to the ground on the Stoner trial.

My best to you and Lil.

Sincerely,



Jeff Prugh

P.S. Do you know of a Dr. Bill Pepper of Rhode Island (who says he's a cohort of Lane's)? He has been in contact with me since the King-CIA story appeared and says he is working with Ralph Abernathy in trying to solve the King case.