

Prugh, Lt James Beal

Dear Jeff,

3/30/80

In the course of reviewing some of the earlier King assassination records (those I got before I got the copier) I came across a few more pertaining to the black bag job of which I told you, pulled by SA Donald Burgess. I made copies FYI only, at least for now. They are enclosed.

One reason I want to keep this kind of thing close is to prevent Lane from running around and ruining what use there can be if used honestly. Another is because there is much fighting left to get what remains withheld.

Serial 1074 describes the markings on the maps, Atlanta and Los Angeles. However, no prints were on either and they have not been pinned on Ray except by unsupported allegation by the prosecutor, who lied about them.

What I enclose may be less than you regard as proof positive but believe me these things were taken illegally, in the bag job on the drunk Garner and his storeroom, which did hold Ray's TV set.

The FBI claims in court, under oath, to have destroyed all this evidence of pre-meditation, allegedly, because it was junk and not of evidentiary value. It finally admitted, after I provided proof, that it had made photographic copies, of which I now have one.

Wouldn't you think they'd want all the attention possible to this? I do.

This leads to the belief that they are hung up on more than illegal seizure.

It does not figure that a Ray allegedly careful enough to leave no prints would leave such maps behind if he planned to kill King when he left Atlanta, three days before the event, in the official account. Or, for that matter, his TV, when he could have sold it.

But it is possible that Ray goofed, that the map was his. On the other hand, I don't see the stingy Ray buying a commercial map when he already had a gas company map, at least one. Another possibility is that someone planted the stuff, which was easy at that place, particularly if Garner was at his cafeteria or as drunk as he preferred.

Burgess didn't even have to pick the lock. He took the pins out of the hinges and walked in.

I presume the LA markings correlate with Ray's activities there. I've not checked and it would not be easy for me to do so. He took dancing, bartending lessons and he saw a psychologist or psychiatrist, Dr. Mark Freeman.

On page 4, Garner wrote the slip of paper matter for the FBI.

This was from FBIHQ, not from Atlanta.

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1133 ~~is~~ from Atlanta and is elliptical and incomplete.

The unidentified source in the first sentence is Burgess, who was undercover in Garner's flophouse. So it is Burgess who provides the list of stuff. I have more on this, including the handwritten list.

Burgess' initials are on the 4/17/68 Atlanta airtel to FBIHQ, #1167. This is the search to which Garner agreed and does not include the other stuff.

In 1267 it turns out that only one of all the maps had a Ray print on it, the Mexico map.

What happened is that as soon as Burgess did the bag job he left Garner's. By the day he left Garner trusted him this much: he told him what to do if Ray came back for his TV. It is not merely that he examined these things in the ~~store~~ ^{store} room - he took it to the Atlanta office and that very day another agent flew to Washington with it. I have the records, from the Atlanta office. In trying to hide all of this the FBI ever referred to Garner's as its "source's" residence. True, Burgess was living there, under cover.

Before the bag job FBIHQ went ape over Atlanta. It wanted to pull a raid but was talked out of it by Atlanta. Which was correct in its thinking. They were paranoid enough not to ask Garner for permission or to get a subpoena. That crazy, really.

If any of these things mean anything to you please let me know. If you want to know more and I know it, I'll tell you. But I don't want Lane or any others ruining or misusing this stuff. Lane doesn't know anything about any of it. There has to be more and I'm trying to get it.

Best wishes, Harold Weisberg