

Dear Wayne,

3/10/77

As you say at the beginning of your letter of 3/6, here today, I do try to respond ~~promptly~~ promptly and do stay busy. We usually do have similar views. Because it will not be possible for me to respond in full I'll answer as I read. By way of further explanation my current interests are by no means limited to King. I have about 5,000 pages of CIA records I've not been able to read, almost that many from the Archives, about 1,500 I obtained last week, have 300 in today's mail and expect between 400 and 500 tomorrow. And would I like to be able to return to writing.

I do not believe there was a real Secret Serviceman from Washington. As Les Payne notes, who ever heard of Washington sending a man in the interest of a black cop? I therefore agree with what I think Les believes, that Manuel is an improvisation and has no relationship. I would not say this about his being in Memphis then. I believe Les said the report was from a Mississippi State trooper.

I find it interesting that you believe Holloman "is the one man in the Loeb administration" most likely to have any "guilt as a knowing member of a conspiracy." I have no real trouble with this because there is no base ~~fact~~ fact for Lane's fabrications. When you say you think that "Hoover manipulated Holloman into removing Redditt from the scene" it is more interesting. Can you elaborate? I do not believe that this removal and prior knowledge of the coming killing are necessarily related, thus I ask.

I have no proofs about the reasons for the Redditt removal. I do believe there was no hit contracted and I know that Redditt's surveillances were known to blacks.

There was no need for more than the police spying on the Lorraine. Unknowns were not likely to be visiting his rooms under those conditions. Photographing from the fire station could not have been kept secret. All my information from inside it dating to the week of the assassination has proved out. What you and others are not into is part of it, as you should recall from the minute part I felt it was safe to use in Game-Up.

Believe me, King and much of his part were under constant surveillance of one kind or another in Memphis.

To keep it simple: all you say about your eggs and sausage man is predicated upon what is non-fact; his having a connection. He is irrelevant with a connection. I see none and I see no reason for any.

I don't know what kind of lawyer RXT is but he is no investigator. I know he has promising materials but I've never had time to go over his files with care. The one time there was a possibility he kept talking so I could not even comprehend his tapes. I asked him for dubs without response. He also is not good at figuring out. He should have been able to limit those who set him up with Battle over his trip to NYC and the NAACP legal defense fund. It could only have been Stanton. Yet RXT continued to trust Stanton.

On Galt at the LA St. Francis 4/19 or 20/68: the conspiracy charge vs Galt was filed 4/17, with all the hoopla Hoover could arrange. No sense to that report. The whole world knew how much Galt was wanted, including all the people who you say are reported to have seen him there. In alliance? Don't believe it.

In response to your questions:

I am still in case. Ray has not fired me or Lear, although we have both been leaning on him, Jim a little, me hard even for me. I know nothing about Kershaw and could use all the info possible because he is clearly a) an ambulance chance; b) unethical; and c) of extremist views. He kept his involvement secret until everybody except JER realized JER was being crazy over the petition cert, when I told Jim how to get his name and address. Jim then called him, not the other way around. He has never been in touch with me.

Nothing that I know of has happened to Lear. He would be happy if Ray fired him.

I know nothing about your two reports and on the most urgent possible basis solicit every fact you can provide because when I quote them back to you you will see their import: "Lear is under investigation from the ABA concerning the Ray case. This report comes from a Washington source with connections to the new Carter administration and Justice department sources close to Pottinger." And, "There's also a report that Lear's wife is under investigation and has been questioned concerning the disappearance of sensitive X-ray materials from the hospital where she works."

These reports that have reached you, as you should be able to perceive, are consistent

only with an effort to ruin him and his wife. The people who have motive for this range from Mark Lane to the Department. But I am certain there is no basis for either report. They also represent one of the few ways of offsetting my work since the evidentiary hearing. I cannot imagine the possibility of exaggerating either its potential significance or Jim's indispensability in it.

There also is no doubt in my mind that if Lane survives it with any reputation at all his book will not. There is no doubt in my mind that neither the FBI nor the Department, particularly Pottinger's division, do not like either of us. In time you will learn more of the reasons. They include my proving in court that one of their lawyers is a deliberate liar, a perjurer.

I don't know all about Jim's practise. I do know that because of his Ray work it is scanty except for me, and that I cannot pay him for the work he does for me. The work for me includes some powerful non-governmental people. Who can be hurt badly by truth. One of these has the closest spook connections of lang standing.

You may not remember it but Jim asked to be relieved on the Ray case and the sixth circuit refused. So he is in it by their direct order. If this is not of his own will you know as a lawyer what obligations it imposes on him. He is required to try to protect Ray's interests. He did not oppose Ray's appearance before the House committee under any circumstances. He did ask for guarantees of protection of Ray's rights. I was there and he was given verbal but not written assurances. I took him there, in fact. To my knowledge he has been fully proper as a lawyer in trying to serve Ray's interests. I not only have no knowledge of his doing anything wrong but I cannot conceive of it. I know Jim well. I have been with him under the most trying of conditions. If decency and honor be faults they are the only faults I can assign to him.

His wife has no involvement in his work if only because it is impossible for her. She not only has her own full-time career she has the most wonderful of babies. Between them she has no time for anything else. Not only can I not conceive of her taking any "sensitive X-ray materials from the hospital where she works," I do know what this can be corrupted from. However, as you will see, it is indicative of the most detailed surveillance if this is not a fabrication and if the story I tell you in confidence is relevant.

You are aware that I have had serious thrombophlebitis. You are not aware of all the circumstances. It was serious only because of the persistent neglect of my medical insurer, most of whose business is with the government in Washington. I reported the symptoms regularly and was told they were signs of getting old only. When the manifestations finally could not be ignored, I was hospitalized, entirely by accident in the hospital in which Jim's wife May is a radiologist. My insurer selected the hospital. It is less than a block from the insurer's clinic, from which I was sent to that hospital. After I had been hospitalized for several days the hospital staff, not the insurer's physician, decided that certain X-ray scans of my left leg were indicated. I was wheeled to the X-ray department where I did not even see Jim's wife. Others did the work. The pre-requisite injections were so difficult - at first impossible - those people decided to do both legs. I think these are called vein scans. They involve a radioactive dye of some kind. They are snapped almost as fast as frames in a movie. I now skip ahead.

I was hospitalized about the middle of October 1975. I had a contract to debate David Belin at Vanderbilt. Now it just also happens in this string of coincidences that when the lecture bureau phoned me the staff hospital physician was giving me a rectal examination. A college student who was with me answered the phone while the doctor was palpating my prostate. It later turned out that Vanderbilt preferred postponing the debate to accepting a substitute for me. I recommended Howard Roffman. The clinic physician said I would be able to do this about 11/19 and it happened. But by the time it was over I could barely walk. Braniff single-loaded me through the rear door and sat a nurse next to me and another student who had accompanied me, happily having wanted to.

It also happens that I have a wealthy friend in New York who was considering a business arrangement with me. When I told him, after not having been in touch with him for some

time, about my medical situation, including this added untoward experience, as an old friend he became deeply concerned. He offered a consultation at his expense with a New York physician. One of the results was a recommendation for regular cardiac consultations. There ensued a period of my seeking to obtain these without extra cost, my insurance already costing about \$1,200 a year. When this was denied I then proceeded locally, which also took some time. I'll never forget the anxiety with which the local doctor phoned the only local vascular expert in my presence and expressed amazement that there were no visible gangrenous symptoms. The vascular surgeon saw and examined me immediately. He then gave me notes to both the clinic and the hospital for the release of my records to him, the X-ray's, of course, being most important. I handed delivered these X-rays to him, he examined them, he then explained them to me, and I ~~also~~ he returned them to me and I returned them to the hospital. Quite obviously it served my interest to have all the medical records of that hospitalization in the possession of the hospital in the event I might be hospitalized again.

Now if this is what someone has in mind two things are obvious: any disappearance of them ~~later~~ was later and any knowledge of any of this has to come from the closest possible kind of surveillance. Almost nobody knows about it.

This is an encapsulation but I believe you can see for it that any added information you can supply is an urgent need. Please do what you can promptly. Please also be specific in any need for confidentiality. It is obvious that someone is out to hurt Jim and his fine wife and what I am trying to do. I do have a current FOIA/King case in federal district court in Washington. It dates to 1969. Jim filed it for me in 1975. Our circumstances preclude any more vigor than we have exercised. There has not been a hearing on it this year. There were perhaps 10 last year. This means that the government has been able to stonewall us quite a bit. But it is a nitty-gritty suit. In my belief Jim has built an exceptionally good record in it, important if there is an appeal. This record is adverse to the FBI and the Department, particularly the Civil Rights Division.

I tell you these things as a trusted friend.

Now Lane has a six-figure deal, according to a Kup column, and a book with Prentice-Hall, according to their full-page ad in Publishers Weekly, that is due to appear next month. This means it is frozen and review copies should be in the hands of reviewers now. But he knew and still knows nothing about the King assassination. Doing a real work he has time for all the conniving in the world. Desperate when he really made a mess of the efforts he was making in the Congress with JFK he turned to King. Through means I know but won't take time for he was given a bob-tailed version of Les' work and mine. He and Abby Man, who knew each other previously, then went to Memphis, you will learn briefly. Their mission was to do with Les' work and mine what little they could. Some of what they did, including with "edditt, was pretty unscrupulous. This with the inevitable and as usual false Lane fabrications really is what led to the passing of the resolution for a House inquiry. Consistent with the committee's subsequent history it an all else that persuaded the house was pure bullshit. So, inevitably, is any part of the book not stolen with fidelity. Lane seems to have his own compulsions. These keep him from being an accurate crook. The by-product is exculpation of the guilty, particularly the federal agencies.

With seeming indifference and aside from the Manuel business the DJ had already struck a hard blow against the Lane fabrications. He appears to be a little desperate. While he is most adept with the nails and knees behind the back he made a personal attack on me over some accurate quotations of me in the WxPost on 1/25 - he also lured me with the spoons in it - he also refused to confront me with me on the phone during that broadcast. It was on a Washington station whose pattern precludes my receiving it. He declined to appear or even respond to station calls when I was given fairness-doctrine time to respond toward the end of last month. He has not accepted my proposal for a subsequent in-studio confrontation. He will not and he dare not.

So what is left for him? Can you see my basis for assuming that directly or indirectly these reports that have reached you can contact with him? Extending the dirtyworks to Jim is vicious but including his wife is unspeakable. Please inform. In hast,