

Among the clippings that were in today's mail is one that had a few words I take as a clue. I've been looking for some quote or indication of any statement by Lane since the HSCA hearings ended Friday. I've seen none and heard of none. As of today AIB had not, either.

What happened has to have been a very serious blow for Lane, more than it would have been for most people (assuming others would have worked themselves into such a position). My hunch is that he has fled to solitude and navel meditation.

It is not only his position vis-à-vis Ray. It is his self-concept and it is the incredible degree to which he'd built on the Cowden and Wilson statements. I think you cannot imagine how much and on nothing else at all. Except Gracie.

The Knoxville Journal carried a long story on the beginning of the hearing, right after Abernathy testified. It has Lane correcting Abernathy to the press and others. Lane was saying that Abernathy was "incorrect" in his testimony about the Lorraine. Having invented what he likes better than truth Lane was insisting that for his sake the unreal become real.

King always stayed at the Lorraine. I believe I have records of eight times. And even the autopsy confirms Abernathy on the catfish. They had eaten it. (I don't know about the Lorraine but all the catfish I had in Memphis was excellent.)

And all the blacks have to know the truth, that Abernathy was right. Which gives cause for wonder about some who tied up with Lane knowing his basis was false. But for Lane to "correct" Abernathy and in the hearing room yet represents such conspicuous bad judgement that it is hardly rational. He should have been silent not to attract attention to his fabrication rather than being quoted in error, which also means in opposition to the black leader whose help he needs and could lose over this alone.

It is certain that Lane's anticipated great moment is his time of great disaster. The key to the man is his sick and unrequited ego. He still has no real accomplishment. He knows it and seeks to substitute the bobbysox mind on which he gets rich. With Jimmy he also has had a press but his handling of the press can itself indicate the beginning of his coming apart.

He may try to retrieve something by unopposed shows in LA but it won't work. His movie is also shot. I can't imagine the books not piling back in on the publishers. He may buttress himself a bit by lying to himself and loudly to others but he will not pull out of this as he has in the past. Even if Jimmy is silent. Jimmy also has his serious concerns now. He built all his hopes on floating feathers. Now they are waterlogged. He can get desperate now because all his judgement has been wrong and he was all wrapped up in it and his correctness. Also ego problems. Especially because he was warned in advance - and in detail. His personality splution can be to turn on Lane. Or interesting situations.