

4/16/74

Dear Bill,

John South's April 10 response to my letter about his interview with Jimmy Ray that appeared over Brian Weikils' name came today.

After I wrote, Jimmy sent me a copy of his letter to The Enquirer. South makes no reference to it but instead says what means, really, less than nothing, that "In fact, James Earl Ray's family was delighted with it."

When James was not "delighted" I am even more inclined to believe that rather than "family" South meant Jerry Ray. That Jerry was dealing with your people on this was known to me and I was then a bit uneasy because I had made the supposedly identical proposal much earlier and more than once.

I do not know what internal communication there has been in your office on this matter, so I quote to you one particular sentence from South's letter:

"We do have a tape of the entire interview, and we know that our report was an entirely accurate one."

"This is anything but a definitive statement, anything but responsive, and anything but what I hope you will stop and think about as in The Enquirer's interest.

Aside from sending a full dub of the tape, what would have been responsive would have been a sentence along the line, "We made no quotations except from the tape and from it there were no unindicated omissions."

What has been done, by whomever done, can't now be undone. My own belief is that someone down there was less than fully aware of the potential of what he did. He thought only of what could make exciting copy.

He should also have thought that this case is in litigation under circumstances that make the state little less than desperate. I am, without any communication from the state, certain that they will make an effort to use this. What options will the defense then have? Do you think for a minute that it has struggled to this point to suffer in silence what would be inevitable?

What would ensue, inevitably, I am certain would not be what The Enquirer would prefer if it could exercise its options. But at that point will it have options?

I do think it would best serve all interests if you would again read my letter and if you have not seen it, South's.

I will do nothing to compromise Jimmy's interests in this. Nor will I without consultation and agreement with his lawyers. But I do believe it is still possible to minimize the consequences. And I do believe that best serves all interests except those of the people who would seek to misuse this.

So, I hope you know me well enough and have enough confidence in me to trust me to use what good offices I can to a mutually acceptable solution to the problem that you realize I not only did not create but would not have happened if someone had not been working around me on my own story proposal.

At this point I decided I should phone you. You now have a better understanding.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

NATIONAL

ENQUIRER

LANTANA, FLORIDA 33462
588-0088

April 10, 1974

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter of April 4 on the
interview with James Earl Ray.

I appreciate your concern on the matter.

We do have a tape of the entire interview, and
we know that our report was an entirely accurate one.

In fact, James Earl Ray's family was delighted
with it.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely,



John South
Staff Reporter

JS: jp