

Dear Bill,

5/16/98

I left your nice letter (for which thanks) enclosing the one you wrote Wilson for Bill to read and at the end of the day for me do not feel like unwinding myself and getting it, so I write about what I remember and will probably write more later. For one thing, I think you may have scared him. For another, I'd like you to tell ~~me~~ him that probably those things were planted for him to find.

I know enough about that FBI office to believe what he said was in his mind. His SAC, named Hitt, was ordered to execute an affidavit stating that there had been no black bag job on Ray. There had been one. ^{He} Wilson, probably knew the agent who did it, Donald P. Burgess.

I think I got to know Ray fairly well. His way of speaking, his spelling, etc. He never spelled the name "Raul" and he always spelled it "Roual."

Driving from Memphis to Atlanta, about halfway he ^{stopped} and cleaned the car of all prints, etc. I do not think who would have missed that envelope. Or have left the door unclosed.

On the basis of what we know there is no possibility of any connection between the JFK and King assassination so I think that Ruby stuff was planted. How it could have been done so ~~was~~ fast is provocative.

Feel free to tell Wilson any ~~me~~ or all of this.

I believe that Ray would have left the car locked. I also believe what he told me, that the man he called Roual had a duplicate set of keys. Ray was to leave the car for him that evening. He saw the slow leak and took it to be repaired but it was rush hour and the filling station told him to put air in and come back in an hour or so. It was when he was taking the car back that he saw the barricades. He turned and fled. His description of what he then saw was not in the papers but was accurate. So, he saw it.

If Wilson ever wants to see the MURKIN records of his office I have them and he will be welcome. I have those of ~~me~~ and six other field offices.

I have discovered more missing, and from my office, since you were here. Nobody works in my office and almost nobody ever looks in those files. What I have established is missing is what could be embarrassing to the FBI. So he is probably right about the phone tapping, etc.

If you write him please ask him if he knew or knew about a symbol informer of that office named Hardin, James C. He also was not in the city directory. If Wilson ~~he~~ knows and is interested I can ^{add} more, some fact some belief. It is connected with the Ray investigation.

More later,

Best and glad you'll be here in July.

Hardy

This is separate so you can send the first page to Wilson if you want to.

The Atlanta SAC did execute the affidavit ordered by HQ. I had a file on him and on it in my office file cabinet, with his affidavit, and it is gone. Jerry checked the basement file and it is not there. The affidavit was perjury and the order to execute it was, I think subornation of perjury. I am missing the duplicate Atlanta file that was complete on that black bag job but I have recovered enough from duplicate filings. Burgess did it by keeping the manager, an alcoholic, drunk, and by taking the binges off to get into the room. Where they probably planted that Atlanta map with those King places marked in ex.

What was stolen was flown to Washington immediately.

It was kept separate from what was taken from the car, which was almost taken apart for clues, as it was right to do. They checked on where he got the tires, the battery, etc., and even too samples of soil deposited and checked that out. Also the laundry marks on the clothing. But all separate from what was taken in that black bag job.

Wilson may remember that his office got the records of Ray's placing his clothing at Piedmont Cleaners and then of picking it up the day after the assassination. I believe Ray when he told me he was in Birmingham when that stuff was left at Piedmont. Or, he was associated with someone in Atlanta, and that does not show in any FBI records.

I've just finished chapter 19 of the book I'm writing about Posner and his prostitution of our history. I think he wrote an FBI book and that in return it did much of his work for him. They would have had confidence in him from Case Closed.

Some of that clothing was too small for Ray. Not ^{only} what went to the Laundry (?) but what was stolen in the black bag job and some of what was left in the trunk of the car.

Ray told me that he went to Birmingham and got the rifle and then did not go back to Atlanta but went to Memphis, with a stop en route and ^{at} two different motels there. I was able to confirm one that the FBI avoided, confirm he was there. Why they avoided it I can only guess, but my guess is that they realized he was there for a meeting, with someone coming up from ^{the} New Orleans.

My supertime.

You asked for the address Ray had for Raoul in New Orleans. He had none but he did have a ~~office~~^{phone} number he promised me and never gave me.

That was a number where he could leave messages not speak to Raoul.

More than New Orleans was involved. There seems to have been a Baton Rouge connection.

And that is where Partin was based.

And from where Ray's key to the deposit box in the Birmingham box was mailed back to that bank - after Ray was no longer in Baton Rouge on his way west.