

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, King assassination records 8/10/78
FBI Informer "Liver Patterson"

One of the items stolen from Jerry Ray and given to the Department via the House assassins committee, allegedly, is a map of the jail in which James Earl Ray is. News accounts have it that this map is regarded by the FBI Director and the AG as of great significance. Early this morning I spoke to Jerry Ray about this. He says he had no such map and, what I agree with, had no need for any such map. (Actually, in common with many others, he has photographs.)

Without in any way downgrading the skills of the FBI and its Lab, I think that with what is now involved in this entire matter it serves all responsible interests for a copy of this and other stolen material to be provided to me as rapidly as possible.

To further explain this, meaning the possibility that it was planted, and to add information for your staff, additional information follows.

While the published accounts have it that Patterson began spying on the NSRP and the Ray family if not also defense in 1972, it is the recollection of Jerry Ray that in fact it began during the 1970 campaign of J.B. Stoner of the NSRP. This has it coinciding in time with J.B. Stoner's representation of James Earl Ray as well as with the defense of which Jim Levar and I were part.

There came a time during that earlier period when Patterson plied Jerry with considerable amounts of vodka, a drink with which Jerry was unfamiliar. During this drinking there came a point at which Jerry Ray, while inside with Patterson, suddenly had no awareness. He came to in a hospital, rather thoroughly beaten up, and what he did not tell me but I learned by other means, under an assumed name. Patterson's story to him was that they had left the residence in which they were and while driving along were set upon by others or that there was an accident. Hercule Poirot, aka Jerry, has a large capacity for believing what he is told.

I have two other sources on this beating up.

During the time that Patterson admittedly was an FBI informer he was able to make use of the St. Louis police. On such occasion, and I have reports of more than one, was when Mrs. Albert (Carol) Pepper had again changed her unlisted phone number in an effort to fend Patterson off and to reduce harassing calls. This appears also to have happened during the time Patterson was working for the committee. On one occasion it frightened the Pepper family.

After Jerry Ray lost consciousness the time Patterson checked him into the hospital under a fake name certain records Jerry had with him disappeared.

Because the flap potential of all of this is great, because reportedly the AG has been involved and because I do not suppose the FBI is flooding the AG with many distracting details preferring his concentration on a supposed escape map, I add that two women associated with Patterson have been talking. At least one was photographed recently with Mark Lane in St. Louis.

FBI
MI reports not provided include its effort to pin a bank-robbery charge on Jerry via Rhonda Gibson, then a girl, as I believe I have told you. I have received no such reports. I have obtained further relevant information from a number of sources, including Ms. Gibson, who was here from Monday afternoon until about 10 p.m. and to whom I spoke this morning about 1:30 a.m.

She was to have been an assassins committee witness on Tuesday. Jerry Ray drove her to Washington, stopping here. The committee was much occupied by other matters, ranging from the Patterson kickback to John Paul Spica, so it took no testimony from her. Significantly, I believe, especially in terms of the ~~the~~ credibility of the map matter and the AG's time and attention taken by it, the committee also did not take any testimony from Jerry Ray about this although he was present throughout the entire day with Ms. Gibson.

Ms. Gibson will be home in a few days. If anyone has need to reach her, I know how this can be done. I am sure she will confirm being interviewed by the FBI.