Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
3/27/76

Mrs. May Pittman Black
Newsroom
Memphis Press-Scimitar
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear May,

Your season is ahead of ours but from the trees and plants spring is here. With the jonquils in bloom two weeks ago we had the season's heaviest snow, a foot, remnants of which remain despite unseasonal highs.

Then there was a sale on bagged topsoil. Ordinarily I'd never buy it with more than five acres and an abundance of wood-dirt, but considering the limitations I did and with it more plants. Then, of course, I needed a bed for the plants. When for the first time in a week I was able to get to that today and do it without the use of forbidden edged tools (I'm ~~still~~ still on anti-coagulent) I enjoyed it and enjoyed the physical tiredness. But I did afterward sit down to rest and relax with a glass of wine. So I had time to think and in the thinking my thoughts turned to you for several reasons.

I hope to be able to spend several days this coming week writing again and I saw Les two days ago and he has not heard from you since his (very good) stories appeared.

If you had any reaction to Les' stories or heard any ~~or~~ of any both of us would like to know. One can tell the other. Les may be assigned away from home base this week but I expect to be away for short periods of not more than a couple of hours at a time and that infrequently.

Other needs have slowed my writing but I've completed rough drafts of at least ten chapters. I'm past the chapter in which I refer to you and your invaluable help. However, I did ask you to think and let me know whether you believe it not adverse to your interests to use your name. I have written it with your name in and with a flag added to ask you to be sure. I'd prefer to use your name but I'd also want to be sure that you do not believe it can hurt you. Please let me know.

If you have no independent recollection I hope you can find time to ask union people or consult your morgue to identify a union man for me. Until Jerry Wurf went to Memphis during the strike this fellow was, I believe, more or less in charge. I do not have his name. He was from (probably North) Carolina. As I understand it, immediately above Jim Pierce. What I need is his name, the hourly rate that led to the strike and the rate the union demanded. It would help to know the date and terms of settlement.

I haven't heard from Jayne since he reported non-delivery of Post mortem. I sent him a replacement copy immediately. Not long afterward I received a small piece of the wrapping of the original package from your regional distribution center. Because we have had extensive complaints of non-delivery of insured packages I asked the local postmaster. He told me that these mechanized centers like yours are a mile or more long and were put into service before the bugs in the machinery were eliminated. He also said that pilferage is higher than ever. Don't know if this situation is a story for you.

I'm still battling with the government for suppressed information. If you know the names of any of the agents who worked on this case it might help me end some of the suppressions.

Anything new on this down there?

Best,
Harold Weisberg

Union leads- "Harris" re 11/6/74

In an effort to make contact with union people in Raleigh who may recall "Bill Harris" I learned that its lawyer is and saw him, Tony Sabella, Saturday a/m., 11/2/74, before we returned to DC.

Sabella remembers a man of Harris general description but not of that name who had been sent in from North or South Caroline and then disappeared. White. Says he'd recall is he saw.

He is to talk to union people.

T.O.Jones seems to be the one to see. Several mentioned his name. I sent messages by two blacks, one a motel maid. Never had response.

Jesse Epps had been in the union then, is now out and on his own and not doing well. Had vibes from Chastain.

Bill Lucey sec-treas.

Sabella 20th floor 100 N. Main Bldg. Generally in office St a.m.s

Sabella believes this man used a name other than Harris, saying he thinks he'd remember the name if he heard it.

Joseph Paisley

June 7, 1972, Hawaiian Motel, Knoxville, Maryland

INTERVIEWER: Before you start talking, your first name.

MR. HARRIS: Bill Harris.

I: What? Bill--

H: Bill Harris.

I: --Harris. Bill Harris is talking.

H: [Inaudible]

I: All right, hold on just a minute, Bill. Bill, would you shut up a minute.

H: Right.

I: This is Bill Harris here at the--

H: Hawaiian--

I: --Hawaiian Motel. He is sitting here across from me--

H: [Inaudible]

I: --and we are doing a bit of talking, and he is chuckling in the process. But he has some things to say. He is a very, very intelligent person.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Would you shut up a minute. I read you out, honey, already.

H: I read you out too; you're good. You're more better than I am.

I: Would you hush a minute.

H: Yes.

I: Here is an individual who has lived a great deal. I could see this in his hand--

H: [Inaudible]

I: Would you shut up a minute.

I have seen his hand. I have watched his body. I have listened to him. I've watched him. He's a fine person. I think in some ways because of the extent of his intelligence he's a bit frustrated because--I think he's deeply psychic--because I've watched him and listened to him. Many times, people with the lower levels of psychic ability have this feeling. I think Bill is one of them. He has not studied, I don't think, to the extent you and I have, David. And I think maybe we can introduce him to some areas of study that will mean a great deal to him, and I will try to do so. But I am going to leave this tape on because he has had some very significant experiences in his life that are interesting to listen to and to assess. And so, Bill, come on; in an organized way say how it is with you.

H: I've been tied up with organized labor for the last 11 years.

I: All right, organized labor in what form?

H: In form of organizing.

I: What level?

H: In organizing labor form and the form of deciding where we strike and when we strike.

I: What union?

H: Public employees. I was with Martin Luther King when he struck in Memphis, Tennessee. I was with Jim Pierce when we decided whether we were going to strike in Memphis. And I was the predominant figure to [one word inaudible] that this was the place where we ought to decide the South. The only dissenting vote there was in a black organization when we were going against Loeb, a Jewish fellow, who was elected by organized labor in Memphis. And then the president of the AFSCME Corporation, was Jerry Wurf, decided we would win in AFSCME and we would win in Memphis, regardless of whether we had to sacrifice who it was and what it was.

I firmly believe that Martin Luther King was a sacrifice for the labor movement. He was killed by the labor movement. They can accuse who they want to. But I firmly believe that Mr. Ray, or whoever it was, was committed to kill Martin Luther King was killed by assassins, assassins unknown, was killed by the labor movement.

I: Now--

H: And I'll tell you why. Because Jerry Wurf

at that time was committed. When I was at the last meeting with Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee--and I was present when the president of the union was there--I was their national organizer, their regional director.

I: Of what union?

H: American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Empoyees. And when Martin Luther King was assassinated, I was the director, eastern regional director, southern director, for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. And Mr. Wurf walked in and took over the operation. And he told me, period, I was no longer in charge of operation and he was in charge of the operation. From then on and from that day forward until the 27th day of Martin Luther King's assassination, he was in charge, period.

I: What was his name again?

H: Jerry Wurf. He was the president of our international. Until that day, Martin Luther King went to Atlanta. Two days prior to that, he went to Atlanta to go to his father's church. He asked that he not be brought back until the violence had subsided. He did not want to participate in any organization with non-violence. My international president assured him that there would be non-violence. I was the principal organizer of the drive. and was--

I: What drive?

H: It was in Memphis, Tennessee. You don't believe that, do you?

I: Hold the mic up.

H: You don't believe that, do you?

I: Yes, I do.

H: All right, I asked him and Jim Pierce--

I: Who?

H: Jim Pierce was my regional director. I asked Jerry Wurf whether or not he could assure me there would be no violence, no other thing, and we would ask Martin Luther King to return to Memphis. He told me in his own words--he guaranteed me--there would be no violence on any part. The preachers in the church in Memphis, in the Alabama church, in the Albania church, in all the Lutheran church, told me that there would be no violence. And I told my president, and Jerry Wurf concluded there would be no violence if Martin--we paid Martin Luther King to be flown to Memphis, Tennessee. And there was a conspiracy to assassinate him among the unions before he got there.

I: What unions?

H: Teamsters.

I: Other ones?

H: They paid for it.

I: Were there other unions involved beside the

Teamsters? [Pause] Well, answer me.

H: The Auto Workers, the Teamsters, and AFL-CIO conspired to pay the man that killed Martin Luther King.

I: How do you know this? Tell me.

H: I know this because I was there. The money was paid to the man, and they got him, in a ten thousand dollar bill collect; he's already admitted to that. [Inaudible]

I: Well, David, you've heard Bill--what is your last name?

H: It's a passing parade, honey.

I: That's all right.

H: And you've got privileged knowledge.

I: That's right, of course, honey. Listen, I have had so many things said to me where I could never say anything.

H: [Inaudible]

I: What is your last name?

H: Bill Harris is [inaudible].

I: How do you spell your last name?

H: [Inaudible]

I: How do you spell your last name?

H: H-a-r-r-i-s.

I: Harris.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Don't worry about it. Now, you tell me that you think you are an alcoholic. I don't think so. You've gone through an awful lot. Sure, you have memories.

H: [Inaudible]

I: All right, you say this on tape.

H: [Inaudible] any state in the union [inaudible].

I: Just a moment. Wait just a moment. Would you wait a moment. Let me talk a minute.

H: I gave you some [inaudible] you can't print. You can't say nothing now.

I: I would never ever presume to print anything that I ever had on this tape.

H: [Inaudible] you can't win if you do it.

I: No, I would never do it. But I'll tell you one thing right now.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Bill, you've lived a life time in a short time. There are others, you know, who have lived a life-time in a short time.

H: [Inaudible] as an organizer I--

I: You've learned something.

H: [Inaudible] My name is Bill Harris.

I: What is it you--let me ask you a question.

Would you let me ask you a question.

H: My name is Bill Harris. [Inaudible]

I: Let me ask you a question. Would you shut up a minute.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Would you shut up a minute. I want to ask you a question.

H: [Inaudible] Go ahead.

I: Out of all the life experience that you've had--and some of it, I know, has been very, very rough. I mean, it couldn't have been more so in this life.

H: I organized all these state workers--

I: Shushhh. Just a moment. Gather your thoughts together because I want a concrete answer.

H: I never hurt nobody.

I: I want you to say on this tape what it is in your innermost self you feel you have learned from all this turbulence and life experience you passed through. I know that it has changed your life in many ways. I'm hoping that it has changed it in a positive way rather than a negative way, and perhaps you can say what has all this meant to you within the last five years. Can you say? All right, take the mic, gather your thoughts together, and see if you can say what all of this has meant to you from a perhaps detached and philosophical point of view at this

stage in your life.

It has been rough, I know. But see if you can say. All right? Here's the mic.

H: Before this all happened, I was a beautiful individual. At the point where I was told that we had to have a martyr, we had to have somebody to win the thing--I was objective, first of all, to killing Martin Luther King. I objected violently to it.

I: And where were you born?

H: October 27, 1927.

I: Where?

H: In a little southern town in North Carolina.

I: Where in North Carolina?

H: I was born in North Carolina in 1927 in a little town called White Lake, North Carolina. I was violently opposed to the assassination when I started out with it. I was told--first, let me tell you something. I've left the labor movement since then. I've not been associated with the labor movement since then. I was violently opposed to assassination when I was told it had to be. And Ray has no connection with the assassination whatsoever. It was perpetrated by the labor movement. It was sponsored by the Teamsters Union. He was shot and killed by the Teamsters Union. And the figure you have there today was only a figure. Ray is only a damn figure

of the imagination, a guy that was perpetrated--put th[illegible], gave the money to be there and perforated for it. The international organization paid politically to assassinate Martin Luther King. They had to win in Memphis. They had to beat the governor there--the mayor there--because he was Jewish. He was elected by the labor movement.

I: Who was Jewish?

H: Who in the hell it was, what in the hell it was. This Jew there was a guy that owned [inaudible], a damn hamburger stand. He was Jewish to start off with. His name was Jewish. Now, I was brought in there not as a participant but I was brought in there as a damn organizer. I was told what to do. Martin Luther King was assassinated by the labor movement, by the Teamster Union, and Ray had nothing to do with it, not one iota. No part of it. No part of it. He couldn't even fire the first shot because nobody knew where he was staying at but Jerry Wurf, myself, and three other people knew where Martin Luther King was staying at.

I: My darling--

H: [Inaudible]

I: --you sort of bared your soul.

H: I didn't bare my soul.

I: Well, up to a point, yes. It's good for you--

H: [Inaudible]

I: Would you hush a minute.

H: [Inaudible] drop dead. [Inaudible]

I: The FBI has worked on this too.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Well--

H: I was there.

I: Would you hush a minute.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Don't forget, I am a journalist.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Hush just for a moment. You said a lot. There is much that you have not said. Any good journalist knows that. But you said as much as you feel you can say. And that's all right.

The knowledge and the insight that came to you from what happened to you as a part of that particular terrible thing, an international thing--

H: [Inaudible]

I: --which happened has made a terrible impact upon you. Now, you can overcome this in many ways, and you will in time. Now, I am telling you this because I know--

H: [Inaudible]

I: --and don't ask me how I know because I do know.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Well, the memory of what happened and the knowledge that you had before that terrible thing--

H: I didn't kill a human being [inaudible].

I: Shushhh. Would you let me finish--will, if you so choose, disappear, and you will use the lessons that come--

H: [Inaudible] goddam [inaudible] traitor.

I: Would you hush a minute--the lessons that came from that knowledge at that time in your life--well, they will disappear. Now, I can tell you a few things that would help you if you so choose to listen. There are some very special books, for one thing, that are somewhat difficult to come by. But if you go to your bookstore wherever you live, they will be able to find them. I can give you the author and the place to write to find these books. Now, David and I own the whole set of them, and we read them wherever we go every night. David has studied these assiduously for many years. They are the best to be found in this whole field. They will help you.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Yes. And I will show them to you. We brought one with us. Well, we brought more than one. But I want you to become acquainted with this and do what you can to--

and they are out in paperback now. We have all the hard-cover ones, and they are very expensive in hard cover. But they are now out in paperback. And I want you, Bill, to start reading. You're ready. Some people are not. They're deep and significant. They are written by a Tibetan monk--

H: [Inaudible]

I: The Bailey books. Well, I am going to introduce you very cursively to the Bailey books. You will overcome all that you passed through. Now, I don't know whether you believe in--do you believe in reincarnation?

H: Yes [inaudible].

I: Well, you have much work to do yet. You have too fine a mind to let--

H: [Inaudible] let the system destroy people [inaudible].

I: No, listen. Would you listen.

H: [Inaudible] You want me to be a part of that.

I: No.

H: [Inaudible] You're talking about being a part of this damn system.

I: Listen--

H: Look, I've seen the most human man destroyed.

I: Every man has--

H: [Inaudible]

I: --but every woman has too.

H: [Inaudible] a whole black nation destroyed by a goddam ideology, a bunch of goddam fanatics.

I: Now, just a moment.

H: I participated in it, yes. Unwillingly.

I: And you feel guilt about that, don't you?

H: You're goddam right I do. But I didn't kill him.

I: One, do you still eat meat?

H: Yes.

I: Well--

H: Look, I can't express myself like you can. Look, I can't--I can't--I can't divorce myself from the reality [inaudible].

I: All right, this is what I'm saying. You start reading some of these books, and you will find you will read them over and over, and you can through meditation divorce yourself from a certain type of reality but still remain very much in this level. A human being lives at many, many levels. And you have a fine mind, and you know that, and it's a frustration to you because you don't really realize the levels that you're living.

H: That's beautiful, but you're talking about

a frustration--you destroyed--that doesn't mean nothing to nothing.

I: All right, you did what you had to do.

H: [Inaudible] 20 million people.

I: Sweetheart, would you just plain listen.

H: Okay.

I: You did what you were told and had to do.

H: Okay, but 40 million people.

I: All right.

H: I feel like the guy that just crucified Christ.

I: If you don't eliminate that guilt in some manner--

H: [Inaudible]

I: --from your sys--no, you have not.

H: I didn't say I'm not going to do it.

I: But you did it.

H: Yeah [inaudible].

I: That's right. That's why the lines in your face.

H: All right.

I: And you're still a young man.

H: All right, I'm dying from it, okay. But still I'm not going to--

I: Well, darling, you don't need to die from it.

H: Why not?

I: That's why I want you to do some reading.

H: Why [inaudible] the issue? I did it.

I: All right, now, we are going to shut this tape off. But I want to show you some books.

H: [Inaudible]

I: No, no, I am not going to--

H: Yes, you are.

I: Oh, hell. You can have your own guilt if you want to. Good heavens, I have no guilt about anything.

H: You never destroyed a man. You never killed a man.

I: No, I could never kill anything.

H: What if you've got to sit back and let somebody kill somebody?

I: All right, so this is a difference, of course. But--

H: [Inaudible]

I: Just a moment.

H: [Inaudible]

I: If you believe in reincarnation--I know that in lives past I was a man once and not a woman.

H: But why should I have allowed somebody to kill some human being? Why should I? [Inaudible]

I: You've got to overcome this, honey, and you

can do this.

H: You're beautiful when you say something. You're beautiful when you talk. When you spoke those words I listened to you, and you sound like something that was out of Shakespeare, something out of--you've got beautiful talent [inaudible].

I: Listen, anything that I give to you is given willingly.

H: [Inaudible]

I: I know.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Well--

H: [Inaudible] Don't turn me away. Don't try to analyze people.

I: Well--

H: [Inaudible]

I: --when you are deeply psychic, you know, you know.

H: [Inaudible]

I: That's right.

H: [Inaudible]

I: I listened to all of you.

H: [Inaudible] beautiful mind. Let me tell you something. Look, I'm a brilliant man.

I: I know that.

H: I'm not dumb.

I: I know that. Don't you think I knew that between the walls even, not even listening to your conversation? I felt your vibrations.

H: [Inaudible] you have a great mind. You're wasted. I've listened to your poetry. [Inaudible] Let me tell you something. You don't have to prove to me [inaudible].

I: That's right. I don't have to prove anything to anyone.

H: No, because I'll tell you one thing, the only thing you've got to prove to is yourself. That's where [inaudible].

I: No, not anymore.

H: You're beautiful.

I: Thank you.

H: You're beautiful in my soul, in my heart.

I: Thank you.

H: Because you proved yourself to me [inaudible].

I: Thank you. Well, I am going to cut this tape off right now, and I want to introduce you briefly to these books. We have one with us.

H: [Inaudible]

I: And you know I am very deeply in love with

my husband.

H: [Inaudible] I know that.

I: I want you to look at them though.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Absolutely.

H: All right [inaudible].

I: That's right. Totally.

H: That's all you'll get out of me.

I: Oh, my goodness, I wouldn't want any more.

H: That's all you're going to get.

I: I want you to go home and make mad passionate love to your wife, my darling.

H: No, uh-uh. Never.

I: Oh, don't say never.

H: I haven't met a woman more beautiful than you are, more brains than you are, more smart.

I: You don't know what my IQ is.

H: [Inaudible]

I: Most men do--

H: [Inaudible]

I: --find their Achilles heel.

H: [Inaudible] wonderful experience. I respect you as a woman.

I: Do you know what my IQ is?

H: I don't give a damn because [inaudible].

I: It doesn't matter.

H: You just--you've done prove to me what your IQ is. It's about 190 or better.

I: That's right.

H: But you don't have to prove nothing to me.

I: I don't have to prove anything to anybody.

H: Well, to me you have proved nothing. Because I thought you was beautiful when I first met you.

I: Thank you.

H: [Inaudible]

I: You've got to use that wonderful mind of yours.

H: [Inaudible]

I: And stop reliving the past.

H: [Inaudible] I respect you for your ability, not because of your sex.

I: Well, I am a woman too but just to my husband, honey.

H: [Inaudible] We could have an affair, but that wouldn't mean nothing.

I: No.

H: [Inaudible]

I: I am going to shut this off for now.

H: Shut it off and let's talk.

I: David, we're home now.

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