guide only

HAROLD: We know the story of Jerry and you meeting Foreman at the airport and you having no letter from James authorizing Foreman to be your lawyer. Jerry had made out an affidavit to that. And when you met Foreman at the Airport he said where's the letter and you said I don't have it. And he said how about the contracts He look at the contracts and he said all hell we can break these with no trouble. Begin at that point. Went to the Motel.

JOHN: There is a motel next to the airport.

HAROLD: Right across from the airport. Did all of you stay there.

JOHN: All three of us stayed there. He wanted to stay an hour there.

HAROLD: He did not check in but you two did.

JOHN: That right. He talked over the contract. He said the contract was nothing anyway. He did not want to talk too much because the room may have been bugged. Then we went to the jail and he went up stairs to talk to James.

HAROLD: You had spoken to James before you saw Foreman.while you were there.

JOHN: I don't think I spoke to him down there.

HAROLD: OK. You went to the jail, Jerry told me this part of the story. If I tell it wrong you stop me. You went to the jail and they took Foreman up. Capt. Smith was it, took Foreman up and left you and Jerry down stairs just as Jerry has to stay separate now. Then Foreman saw James alone. Then Foreman came out and had a handwritten letter from James and he gave that to the prison people and then he made a statement to the newspaper on something like that. Now in your letter you said you are not certain about the time of that about you, Jerry and Foreman sitting down and having a drink and eating something. What did Foreman say after he saw James?

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HAROLD: He went to the hotel or something. He stayed at the Peabody didn't he?

JOHN: First he was checked in at the ** Downs then he went to the Peabody. He wanted us to know the contains of the letter at one time. Telling he was lying and I wouldn't do it. I felt it was up to James to tell him. I did not know James feeling about it.

Harold: Excuse me there is something I do not want to forget. I am interrupting you/but it may turn out to be very important to and we'll come back to it.
Mames. One of the things you said was his bad mouthing of Lee Balley. Don't go into it now but/remember everything at one point I want you to
nasty he said about Haines, everything nasty he said about Balley, everything nasty he said about anybody. But right now lets talk about how he said he/would handle the case. said he
In your letter you told me about the/changes in his positions. different

JOHN: There was a mix up. I don't know if he was down there one, two, or three days. I don't know.

HAROLD: To the best of your recollection. Thats much better John. I rather have you sayI don't know or I'm not certain then to say and be wrong. HAROLD: Several days

John: I actually don't. It in that vicinity./ While we were down there, he ah I don't actually have too much to say, Foreman didn't do much ------ not about the case anything. He always figured he had it.

HAROLD: So at this first meeting he didn't talk much about how he handled the case.

JOHN: He just said he have him walking on the street.

HAROLD: He said he have him walking on the street.

JOHN: Because there ain't nothing here. He did not use the word trash he used somekind of word for payment or trash like

described the
JOHN: / CONTRACT THE same way.

HAROLD: This was before he saw me at the Evanancy. This was just/when he first got down here.

JOHN: I don't actually known when he got here.

HAROLD: You referred to that. We will talk about that later. To begin with all he said was that he would have James walking. What else did he talk about? Did he say how he was going to handle the case or if he was going to hire any investigators? Anything at all like that? Anything. What did he say about the case? At his first meeting did he talk about any plans or was he did he just talk generally.

JOHN: He just ah about evidence he had no evidence against him. I don't know if he had any evidence at all. Why would he say he would have him walking on the streets.

HAROLD: This was the first time, matter of fact the only time you ever saw him/ in Memphis is'n it?

JOHN: I saw him a second timein Memphis when he represent at the trial.

HAROLD: Yes but prior to what I call the minitrial.

JOHN: I might have seen him, I don't know.

HAROLD: So far as the case is concerned at the first meeting, all he did was he acted like there was no evidence and he said he'd have James walking and the contract was easy to break.

JOHN: Right.

HAROLD: Did he indicate he'd have to buy Haines out or anything like that? Or did he say it would be easy to break? Matter of fact he could have broke them very easily and he could have Haines disbarred.

JOHN: Could he. All he said they were not worth the paper they were written on.

HAROLD: Could you remember anyother discussion or maybe there was none?

JOHN: He done alot of talking but not about what we are talking.

HAROLD: This was after you left the jail.

JOHN: Right after we left the jail.

HAROLD: He took you and Jerry out to dinner.

JOHN: His prime interest he said was to at least get a hung jury. After the trial he surprise me with my sister up at Maplewood. He was representing a friend up in Maplewood and thats when he switched his whole package.

HAROLD: That was the first time you knew of the change in tacticswas when he came to Maplewood. Can you remember that?

JOHN: They had something about him in the newspapers. That when he saw my sister. She can tell you.

HAROLD: I'll take that up with her. I am going to see her tomorrow. Ok so he said he was going to take care of the case by reaching the jury by putting on film and playing the voice of King and saying the city will all be burning down so forth. in other word make his crime look like a public service in killing somebody.

John: Right.

HAROLD: And this was the same approach he was going to use here.

JOHN: Yes

HAROLD: Did you every read the book on Foreman called the King.

JOHN: Yes I read that a couple of weeks ago. Its in my cell right now.

HAROLD: Another words what he is talking about is exactuallywhat it saids there. Now did he say anything else about tactics, and how he would handle the case except this film on the King.

JOHN: One time he said the FBI had some body who got pictures. He said he try his best to find out who was that person.

JOHN: The FBI knews that person but will not tell him.

HAROLD: The FBI knows who jumped out of the bushes

JOHN: They have the information but for some reason will not tell him. He showed me a list of the evidence he had at one time. There was not much evidence but it looked like alot.

HAROLD: Was Jerry with you when he showed the list of evidence.

JOHN: Yea he showed it to me at _____ He showed it to me at Jefferson. That isSHeridon Jefferson. He possible showed it to my sister.

HAROLD: JOHN And did he described that evidence in anyway.?//One thing he worried about was that radio. He ~~xxxx~~ kept harping on that radio.

HAROLD: Did he give you the feeling or did he say that all the evidence amounted to nothing. Did he ever say that.

JOHN. Well he said there was evidence but before that he said there was no evidence to lock him up in jail. He even told the sheriff that. He made fun at the security. He said I make millions I'm a millionian.in this law business. He told the sheriff that. Sheriff_____.If Jim was as smart as you he would not be looked upstairs he would have your job.

HAROLD: He made fun of the security.

JOHN. Yea. About the TV and stuff.

HAROLD: Did he ever say the security was against James's interest? Did he ever complain he could not talk to James privately?

JOHN: He read about it all the time. He knew he couldn't talk to him im private. He worried more about bugs and tapes. He would not talk in the motel because of bugs. Had a safe put in his room where he was staying. He said he had more than once things taken. Also possible FBI was moving in the room next to him. This was before he pleasd guilty.

HAROLD: Did he ever tell you that he had asked the prosecution for the evidence he was intitled to?

JOHN: I don't know unless it was the FBI deal about that white sheet or something.

HAROLD: He never discuss anything like this with you.

JOHN: No.

HAROLD: Did he ever say anyother way he would want to get James off?

JOHN: He was going to have him plea guilty at that time.

HAROLD: Before we get to the pleaing guilty.

JOHN: He did not really say he was going to have him plea guilty.

HAROLD: Before that, you wrote some very interesting things in here. One of the things was on the King film and how he was going to reach the jury. That the kind of things I am driving at. Was there any thing else like that that you can think of that he said?

JOHN: I can't actually think but he must of said that stuff. He did not want to talk about details.

HAROLD: What did he say about himself? How good he was? So forth?

JOHN: Well, he criticized the style of San Francisco of Melvin Belli's.

HAROLD: Plug it into that. Say everything he ever said about Belli.

JOHN: Well, he claimed how Belli had Texas. Comes in to the city of running Texas down. And getting a gun life in penitenary with Ruby. Well I got him off with 5 years. Most of 5 years he described said. He won't stop but anything. Most I got is 5 years. Couple of cases against him. One in particular.

HAROLD: Which did he say Belle or Belli?

JOHN: He reffer to slang names so.

HAROLD: That's why I'm asking. Did he call him Belle?

JOHN: I think he did.

HAROLD: Because it makes Belli mad to be called Belle.

JOHN: He called a slang name. He hadn't done. name calling. He talked about him being a student while he was a millionair.

HAROLD: He was always talking about how rich he was,, I'll bet.

JOHN: Yea. And he goes on and Belle's name like ah. He was always trying to impress people. He critized all lawyers.

HAROLD: The public defender Stanton?

JOHN: Yea. He couldn't try a chicken thief.

HAROLD: You couldn't try chicken thief.

JOHN: ~~Tixxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ You see he went over to Stanton's office. He critizized Stanton so much that I wanted to get away from the guy. After hearing him criticize Bailey on I just assume he criticizes everybody. He went into Stanton office. Stanton told him. See had that money in the bank. Oh, 50 thousand dollars on bank. And he told him I might take it that somebody else was putting in. Something against that judgement. Foreman took off down and ran out of the office. Foreman dropped everything and went down to the bank just to get our money out. Oh, I'll tell you what else Forman did do. He had aero photograph the motel rooming house and everything down there. I know we had photograph Stanton got them out of there. Stanton asked me if he'd keep them I think Forman told me to pick 'em up. I told him I didn't want us to keep 'em. So Stanton got 'em. Photographs is all

HAROLD: What else did he say about running Stanton down? I take it this was as soon as the judge appointed Stanton for the case.

JOHN: He said too you always hire a lawyer from the home town, local lawyer because it makes it look good.

H AROLD: Then in your own letter you said he always let them do the work and went 50/50 on the big cases. They did the work and he did the court room appearances.

JOHN: The case up in Boston is an example of that.

HAROLD: We'll get to that when we get to how he ran down Lee Bailey. I want to get everything you remember on that. I have a special purpose. Let stick to Stanton. What else did you say that led you to believe the he believed Stanton was not competend.

JOHN: He said Stanton didn't do nothing. Something Stanton done was not right. He asked Stanton to do something and Stanton did not do it right. I was wondering why he had a guy work for him if he was as bad as he said.

HAROLD: Was there was one case or more?

JOHN: I think there was several cases. Something he was doing wrong. He didn't actually talk about one person. I think Stanton called him up about someone putting a judgement against that money. when he heard that, he took out of there. He took out real fast. He had to get that money out before they put a lien against it.

HAROLD: Was there more then one case of this. Not of the money but of you going to Stanton office.with him.

JOHN: I went with him twice. I'm not sure. I went back to Stanton office tweice because that when I saw the photographs.

HAROLD: Did you ever have any meeting after this first one before the time the judge appointed Stanton on the case? A meeting with Forman. You or you and Jerry together. I think that was February 7th. I am not sure. You see it was in November he got the case. November 10th. Right before it went to trial It was to go to trial on November 11.

JOHN: Yea. He got it right before trial. I know that. I saw Forman in November. I saw Forman several times but I don't remember when I saw them.