5/28/94

Dear Mr. Miles,

Thanks for your letter. The short answer to your question is that I do not believe Lloyd Jowers' story and I have no idea why he has said these things.

Please excuse my typing. I'm 81, unwell and it cannot be any better.

After my book on the King assassination was published I became Ray's investigator, unpaid. I conducted the investigation for the habeas corpus petition and when that succeeded, based on that investigation, I conducted the investigation for the two weeks of evidentiary hearing in Memphis that was to determine whether Ray got a trial. The approach was mine, the lawyers agreed with it, and I produced the witnesses who in effect exculpated Ray. Judge MacRae in the end held that guilt or innocence were not material to what was before him. One of those I interviewed was Lloyd Jowers. He is among those I used to prove that Ray's car was not there at the time of the crime and for some time before it. He was amply confirmed by others I produced as witnesses on that. In the interviews and as a witness he was calm, unruffled, untroubled — not at all what you would expect of a man with the kind of involvement he now says he had.

One reason, additional reason I do not believe his story now is that it is refuted by evidence of which he has no knowledge. There are details of which he does not know that make his story impossible. And there is much with which it is too inconsistent. I am aware that a black waitress who'd worked for him has given his story some confirmation. I cannot explain that.

His place then was Jim's Grill. Ray had rented a room in the flophouse the bottom floors of which were two businesses, Jowers' and Guy W. Canipe's second-hand record store the late morning of the crime. I did not know that Jowers had give that business up or had a convenience store. I also find the stories of his considerable wealth not easy to believe. I am aware that Ray's new lawyer got permission to test-fire the alleged Ray rifle. I have already proven that it was not used in the crime so if those tests turn out to be dependable, and with all the times that rifle has been fired since then they may not, it adds nothing the existing proof presented in federal court.

I hope there is a trial. There should be. Perhaps with less evidence than the federal judge had the state court may order a trial. I doubt it but I hope it happens.

For the record for history if you see any stories or hear any more I'll appreciate knowing. I do not get the Memphis papers and no longer have any contacts there. I am also interested in any more that surfaces about ~~KXXX~~ Jowers and his story. Thanks and best wishes,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg

ROGER MILES ELECTRIC

LICENSED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
P.O. BOX 1107 MARTIN, TENNESSEE 38237
(901) 587-6860 FAX (901) 587-0870

May 23, 1994

Harold Weisberg
Route 12, Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

RE:Loyd Jowers

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I have enclosed a book order and I want to personally thank you for your investigation and exposure of one of the greatest lies that the government has ever tried to have us believe. My view of our governmental agencies will never be the same.

I noticed that you have written a book on the assassination of Martin Luther King and I wonder if you are aware of the allegations that surfaced back in January of this year of a man who did live in the same town where I live. If not I will briefly relate the allegations as I understand them.

Loyd Jowers alleges that he hired the man who actually killed Martin Luther King, obviously not James Earl Ray. In 1968 Jowers owned a grocery store in Memphis across the street from the motel where King was shot. James Earl Ray lived in an apartment above his store. These are the few details that he revealed. It has become a concern of mine because I am personally acquainted with Mr. Jowers and his family.

Soon after the story broke, Jowers closed down a convience store that he owned and auctioned off his equipment. Just recently I learned that he had moved from the area. Last week I talked with Jowers' nephew and he said that he did not know where his uncle had gone but thought he had moved to escape media pressure. I asked if he thought his uncle was telling the truth and he replied "I wouldn't put it past him". I don't know what to believe but I am worried about Jowers' safety.

My question to you is does this sound like the truth or is it a hoax? Any light you can shed on this matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Roger Miles

Roger Miles