James Earl Ray's not new "new" book uses unauthorized promotional quotes 12/5/91

Dear Dave,

James Earl Ray kept me warm this morning with the temperature below 20. While I read the enclosed story ~~and~~ sitting in the car at the ef the lanr waiting for the local paper and later when walking at the Carmack shopping center.

Somehow while a prisoner Jimmy got a new trooper's jacket. He took it to Memphis at the time of the hearing intending to give it to his brother Jerry but by the time he got around ~~to do~~ doing it I had run Jerry out of town because he had in his motel room many of Jimmy's personal records that, the hearing being a civil action, were subject to subpoena by the state.

Bud Fensterwald, Jim Lesar, the incredible local criminal lawyer Bud had gotten to be local counsel (an extreme racist and fundamentalist lay preacher of a telecasting church who carried a 375 Magnum with interchangeable cylinders so he'd not have to take time to reload!) and Jerry Ray were walking from the motel to the federal building when I caught up with the. They were arguing, Bud trying without avail to get Jerry to leave and Jerry refusing to. When I learned what it was about I didn't ask Jerry, I told him not only to leave but how to drive, what roads to avoid for how long and asked him if he wanted me to be sure that he didn't blow what chances his brother had by his stupidity in having those records with him. He did as I'd told him.

With Jerry not there to accept the jacket Jimmy gave it to me. It is one of the best-made garments I've ever had, in almost perfect condition after all these years. Not that I wore it that much but I did daily in the late 70s when we had hard cold.

It is quilted, with recessed knitted cuffs that not only seal the wrist again cold but can overlap gloves. It has both a strong metal zipper and a button front, the real reason I use it in only the coldest weather. Those buttonholes are that tight - I have trouble using the bottons. So, with the temperature below 20 and a weak wind I was able to walk without getting too cold.

Although the book has been out several weeks this is the first mention I've seen of it in the Post. From what I saw of the questions "he" poses at the end of the book, he still has only a limited understanding of the realities, is possessed by some nutty beliefs that I am sure originate with Mark Lane, and is utterly worthless.

(Lane: I checked my Marita Lorenz file this monring and all she said had been published and debunked long before Lane deposed her in the Hunt v. Liberty Lobby case. But instead of the National Enquirer it was the Globe of the supermarket tabloids plus the N.Y.Daily News that carried the stories of which I was sent copies, plus a debunker from the Philadelphia Times Village Voice. The papers also carry Sturgis' denial of what she said and his lie-detector test.)

While King Jr's and Andy Young's complaints about being quoted to promote the book about which they know nothing and hadn't read are legitimate, Young is not in a very good position

to say what he told the Post, about always believing that Ray was guilty. He is one of the top SCLC people of the time to whom I had copies of Frameup sent by white SCLC people. If he read it at all he could not possibly be as firm in his expression of certainty about Ray's guilt. My purpose in sending the copies was to try to get the SCLC leadership interested in helping establish the truth. There may have been others for whom I bought books then but I recall Abernathy and Stoney Cooks, all of whom were and remained silent. I also went to the Wachtel law offices in New York, hoping to see him - he was the family lawyer - and never got past the reception desk. A woman did come out to speak to me, she reflected no interest and disbelief, and except that long thereafter Wachtel had a law student phone me, I heard nothing. Neither the student nor Wachtel nor any one else phoned me.

I'd had a chapter that was cut from the book, "Trumpets Blair but No Blondel" in the second part of which I went into black indifference. The first part related to a quickie book by Clay Blair clearly assisted by the FBI, a sycophantic work. I had not then approached SCLC but I had ~~xx~~ tried to speak to Jesse Jackson, then in Chicago, at least three times. He did not respond. A black friend who was a TV producer phoned Jackson in my presence and did not get through to him. Then when Lane came along with his obviously untenable clatrap in the late 1970s Jackson, he Abernathy and others endorsed the craziest and ridiculous nonsense Lane made up. Other blacks supported that then.

I'd written the Rev. Sam Kyles, who was next to King when he was shot, without response, when I planned to be in Memphis and wanted some black-community connection so I would have that little help on interviews but he also never responded.

So, while it is not only safe and proper for protest over involuntary and out-of-context unauthorized seeming endorsement, these people save from young King then an infant have records of which they have no reason to be proud.

If I can get an address for young King I'll write him.

I forgot Carl Rowan, from whom a quote is also used. He also complained. Now it happens that Jim Lesar and I went to see him at his office. He was not in but his white assistant spoke to us for a while. We explained why we wanted to talk to Rowan. He never called, not even when the papers carried word of my King FOIA lawsuit.

There was no black Blondel in any event.

It may seem odd, ~~that~~ Jerry Ray being the kind of roughneck he is, that I could order him to do what he had refused to do when the lawyers asked it of him. I'm not sure that I can really explain it but the Ray family had a respectful attitude toward me and they knew that when I've had to I fight. When Carol, the sister, and John, the other brother, were called before HSCA each wanted me with them rather than Lesar. They settled for both, only Fauntroy, at Carol's executive session hearing, ejected me. They did not dare try that when the TV cameras were on in the public hearing room, I sat at the witness table with Jim and John and was able to help Jim materially. In part I suppose it is because they knew I'd done all the investigating after getting him counsel and that they liked my book.