

Dear Jimmy,

***** 5/1/77

While the enclosed are largely self-explanatory I want to be certain that you do not permit yourself to miss the obvious. Because I will be referring to them I will also send copies to Stoner and Jerry.

Previously - long, long ago - I told you that Freed and his gang are trying to sell you, Jerry and Stoner as the conspirators who really did ~~x~~ kill King. I've told you that the Lane end of that axis sold the committee on this through Fautroy and the black caucus, adding what I have know the Freed gang to say but do not have a record of their writing it, that you were flaks for the FBI and that it was behind the assassination. I have heard "ane and Fautroy say what cannot be interpreted any other way.

In this crap Freed builds on the record of the past, all public, to have the three of you the foils of the FBI, ending with the counterpart of what Lane vomited out in Skeptic that I quoted to ~~xx~~ you in the letter I wrote last night!!!! you all three show "a sense of betrayal here, of people who have been used." I have marked this particular passage for you.

I am also enclosing a copy of a radio news service aimed at the college audience. It is, I am sure, monitored carefully by the feds. In it "im is quoted as saying what I've been telling you and you have refused to believe. He also says he has the records I've obtained, which also is exactly what I've been telling you. And I've paid for them, not you, and let him have these copies to use as he sees fit in your interest.

These should let you see that you are not in contact with reality and that after the conditions of your confinement and your continuing isolation, except from disinformation operators who are really the running dogs of the feds, you ought not expect to know all there is to know.

The Los Angeles Times also quotes "im in this sense. I am sure other papers have. These just happen to be in today's mail with a copy of the LATimes that is too poor for further copying, unless "im's machines can do it. I'll give it to him.

Sometimes I wonder about Jerry's contact with reality or lack of it. But he can tell you that months ago I was aware of this operation, on both coasts, and that the Freed gang was trying to get published this nonsense about the three of you doing the job. They almost pulled it with the Tennessean, with Hagin in on it from the first, as I also told you. Now I know that there were two calls to Stoner. I think one was by Freed and one by his honcho Cohen.

You prefer to believe what you do not want to believe and to associate against any sensible standard and without any checkin with this wretched combo of the most unscrupulous scavengers, those who have always done what serves the government's interests and whose excesses are in exact accord with official disinformation operations. So I am giving you a chance to check me and a dare, are you man enough to face yourself on this and come to grips with what really serves your interest, not what you have made up and cling to and what I'm sure you have been told?

When I kept getting these reports of what is so clearly so terribly adverse to your interests I wrote Stoner about it. He called me and we discussed it. He confirmed the Freed operations calls to him and what they are trying to palm off. I gave him an idea of what I have been doing and putting together and invited him up here to see it. It was my hope that having seen it he would let you know the realities and the possibilities if not the probabilities and that because he is a lawyer who has represented you and against whom you made no complaints you might be more inclined to believe him since clearly you did not believe him and me.

I also invited the clown who hates to be called a clown and can't help being one here for the same purposes when he was on vacation. He told me about his joking with you over my beliefs. But the fact is I was willing to show him and that I show him was my idea, not yours or his. The dare is ask them if I'm not telling you the truth.

When I first got wind of you and Freed, long before your foolishness in trusting him led Lane to lead the committee into its first effort at self-destruction, I told Jim and asked him to warn you, believing that you might be more inclined to believe him.

But you, you have to be Perry Mason and all those people will now be saying that you are

is one of the reasons you are where you are. I make no difference to me personally what you do. I'm telling you where your real interest lies. Sincerely, Harold

their source. They'll have the envelopes to show if the letters do not suit them and they are the kind who use parts of letters as I've known them to do often with a variety of records.

Now that will sell books, "Assassin Confesses; James Co-Conspirators." With "James Earl Ray's own Story- Exclusive."

Do what you will. I think you should provide Jim with a copy of everything you have told or sent them so that when the time comes he may be able to do something about it.

On other than you I'm prepared, well prepared, particularly if I can read proofs in advance and mobilize.

But I'm telling you again that with one exception all this stuff is bullshit and when it hits the fan it will blow back in your face. Lane and Freed don't care. They have a following that believes they are martyrs, but the following is of no importance. They have already helped the committee wreck itself.

The one exception is what they stole and misused from Tom Payne. You have those stories. Payne is scrupulously accurate. I worked with him. He began with my loads when I was sick and could not do the work myself.

I am telling you that every other word is inaccurate except for the parts of the Surtage stuff that is not new. He was all over TV with it years ago. But it is irrelevant in the crime itself.

When it is out they will have a party in FBI Headquarters.

I will chew it up in finest detail whatever the FBI does. I think they will do as I will, just wait. It won't be that long.

Lane is so scared of this that when he was on a talk show in Washington, a bit hysterically, 1/25, listeners asked that they have me on the phone to broadcast with him because he had made some cracks about me. He refused. He is that scared. He knows all his stuff, even what is his own in the JFK case as distinguished from what he took from others.

You dream of a movie and they have baited you with it? They told the New York Post, which is my source, that the movie is actually titled "The Investigator," with Lane as the hero. It is not a movie on or about you except as the villain of one kind or another.

When this hits the fan you are going to be in trouble and just at the time your situation would have been ever so much better. In an emergency I have been prepared to do something since I mentioned to you what I then had in November 1975, the day I was barely able to walk about you joked about my "hippie" shoes when I could not get shoes on. I told you a year ago "anxiety" such the same thing and you still did not believe it and visualized eons of time in which there would be nothing except what you could do with civil suits that get thrown out of court. What you have done, particularly with Lane and Freed and those very unwise letters of the kind you sent to Sprague with a copy to me, have forced me to be much more cautious, much more careful, to keep you afloat. I now do have enough although I do expect even more. A large part of it is of an origin that the shores you have bedded with cannot duplicate and most they can't understand because they have done no real work. Unless you have wrecked it to a degree you will find that it puts you in a position you have never dreamed of. I do mean this in virtually all areas, including McMillan.

You will get no real help from Kershaw. Despite your wild imaginings that if I knew who he was I'd beg him I care nothing about him. He has not been in touch with me. I will not be in touch with him, I will give him nothing because among other reasons he knows nothing about the case, and that is it. You do what you will. I will use what I have done, with him, in your interest, whatever you do. What it boils down to, whether or not you want to hear it, is when will you stop cutting your own throat. I do encourage you, despite the totally unnecessary waste of his time that it entails, as I have before, to file him in fully and completely and not be your own lawyer as you have told me, and decide for yourself what he should know and what he should not. This belief has practices