

Mr. Tony Summers  
10919 Ravenswood Drive  
Manassas, Va. 22111

2/16/88

Dear Tony,

Right after you left I went and got my hearing aid fixed. When I got back I discussed briefly with Lil what we had discussed. As you can see from the enclosed, I took care of your question and her amendment immediately.

There will be no problem. When you are here again I think you and Jerry should meet.

I also spoke to my supplier about transcribing machines. My belief is that most if not all his customers are the local police and lawyers, both of whom require dependable equipment.

For \$230.95 he has an Olympus microcassette transcribed, light weight for portability, with both headset and foot control. Olympus, by the way, was first or just about first in this field. My old Lanier, one of the very first, was made for Lanier by Olympus and it is about 10 years old.

A machine like the one I used, same make, Sanyo, with headset, foot control and microphone, is \$285. You can use this for both taping and transcribing.

By U.S. tax law you can charge these off to the book.

My Sanyo is more than 10 years old. I remembered after you <sup>left</sup> ~~was~~ that for conferences there is a switch on the back but the same mike is used.

I'm not up to much searching or bending but I did locate the old Harris file downstairs and my correspondence with the Gaineses. I've added both files to the working file in which I had the FBI's expurgated transcript. I did not look for the tape but I did skim the transcript. David and I were both frustrated that Shirley kept interrupting Harris! I skimmed the unexpurgated transcript and I did see the name of the union but not of the honcho.

After Rae left I had a number of college girls working on the files. Some were good, some disasters. The old Ray file cabinet had the contents of the top drawer removed, no indication of where, and the transcripts of the evidentiary hearing are there in their place. I suppose that ultimately the tape and the rest will surface. One of the reasons I need help is straightening things out and locating things. The file I did find has the Zwerdling letter in it and mine to Wurf and him. No responses.

Best,

Dr. Gerald McKnight  
History Dept.  
Hood College  
Frederick, Md. 21701

2/16/88

Dear Jerry,

Tony Summers was here earlier today. We discussed how he might be able to help me with my book on the King assassination. I forgot to tell him the working title, "The King Conspiracies," or to explain it. He'll know because I'm sending him a copy of this letter, which has a different purpose.

We spent about three hours talking about the content, both of us taping it so that for several purposes he'd have at least a rudimentary understanding of some of what I have. One purpose is so that he can raise this with his agent, Sterling Lord. He will do that with a letter a copy of which he'll send me before he mails it. Another is in the event something happens to me.

When I told him that all my materials will go to Hood, after telling him that if I can't complete the book he can have it, with the understanding that he will see to it that it is taken care of fairly, he asked how he would have access if Hood is to get it. I told him that if it is not available here it will be at Hood.

He will not be able to do anything until he completes his present project, a biography of J. Edgar Hoover. We do not know when he'll be free of that.

After he left I mentioned this, briefly, to Lil, and she raised a question Tony did not raise, of exclusivity. Of course this is or would be our desire in the event Tony takes it over. I didn't think of it, either.

This might well be for a longer time that completing the book would require. I mentioned to Tony my belief that this could also make sensational and significant TV. He seemed to agree. We went no farther but even though I don't yet have an agent it is our desire, and Lil and I did discuss this, he have the first crack at any TV rights. TV is his field. Moreover, by the time he finishes his present book, he'll have one of the better understandings of the real FBI under the very unreal while also very real J. Edgar Hoover.

Tony is in a position to give Lord a pretty good idea of the potential of this book. I told him my minimum requirements are a publisher who is willing to make the effort and investment an assistant for me requires. I mention Rae to him briefly, at the same time indicating that as of my last knowledge she is not available. One of the reasons I mention this is for you to think of your students who are about to graduate who might be bright and willing enough, especially if they live here or near here. And are not anxious to start on their careers immediately and who might, were they, for example, also journalism students or history/polisci majors, who could get for the work what they can't be taught.

This tired me rather much and after Tony left I had to go to the hearing aid place to get my left aid working again and I was uneasy driving. So, I'll go over this again after a little while, when my head is clearer, and may amplify if that is indicated. What I do want to get down is that Tony would have exclusive access to what it takes to finish or do the book but not necessarily anything else if Hood wants to move it earlier. I can also imagine that he might be able to work better at Hood, as Sam Adams did. This also did not come up.

I don't know who is to publish Tony's Hoover book but I think this would make a fine companion volume to appear later.

We did discuss the arrangement of the book, for the most part indefinitely.

What we did agree on, when I went into some of the provocative elements I could carry only so far, is that the book itself must be non-conjectural, with no theorizing of any whodunit and that Ray be almost an incidental figure in it, not to be spoken to, if at all, until after the book is completed. We agree it not be written to exculpate Ray, which in fact it will do. I didn't tell Tony that it should get him a trial the one way now possible, new evidence, and he should be readily acquitted. I didn't tell Tony all my reasons for this. However, we did agree that those things, most of which I went into with him, ought be a sort of epilogue handled as investigative leads the FBI did not follow or ignored. I rather think he then would like to try to follow up on them, even though a couple can present some hazard.

What just popped into my mind is a sort of working title for TV, "The Trial James Earl Ray Never Had."

For now Tony is to keep confidential all I told him. He has notes in addition to the tapes.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. G. M.' or similar, written in a cursive style.