

JL - I believe I told you about a discussion I had with Tony Summers about my King book and what I would be willing to do in return for getting some help. This was conditional on my getting that help/ Tony

broadened the matter to his agent, Sterling Lord. I had a phone call from someone who said he was with Lord, that Lord was interested and would phone me on his return from England in a week or so. Many months have passed and no word from Lord. Tony had never mentioned this again until I got his letter asking for permission to condense and squeeze some of it into his Hoover book. I don't want that and so tell him. I think ~~for~~ a note I got from her that Cathy will be up on the impeachment stuff after she returns from the LBJ library.

Mr. Tony Summers  
P.O. Box 2540  
Manassas, VA 22110

11/15/88

Dear Tony,

I'd rather not have any of the King information we discussed used now for a number of reasons. One is that there is other interest. As I presume you know, I never heard from Sterling Lord. I do intend to explore these other possibilities.

Thanks for your concern about the operation. The eye was never the concern, that being outpatient surgery now most times. It may vbe about two months before - have full use of the better eye, however.

Please tell Kathy when she returns that we do look forward to a visit by her and Paul and, if that will be winding up your work here, the return of Lil's transcribing machine.

No, we haven't really needad it while I've had limited use of my right eye.

I haven't tried to do that much.

I imagine that the Hoover writing will not be simple, there is that much and probably so much is intertwined.

Good luck with it!

Howard

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, MD 21701

10919 Ravenwood Drive  
Manassas, VA 22111

Nov. 10, 1988

Dear Harold,

Many thanks for your letter which arrived today addressed to Tony. Since I am dealing with the question of the impeachment of Douglas, I have taken your kind offer on board and will get back to you as soon as I return from Texas. (I'm going to the Johnson Library on Monday for a week).

I'm determined we shall get out to see you before our return to England. I didn't know you were having an eye operation. I trust it was successful and you are feeling as well as you can be. Not being able to read for a while must be very frustrating!

All our best from here to you and Lil, and look forward to talking with you soon.

*Kathy*

P. O. Box 2540  
Manassas  
Virginia 22110

ANTHONY SUMMERS

Phones: 703-368-4621  
703-968-0263

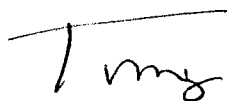
Mr. Harold Weisberg,  
2627 Old Receiver Road,  
Frederick,  
Maryland 21701

November 9 1988

Dear Harold,

Jim had me worried saying you were having surgery, then cheered me up by explaining that it was eye work, and that you had come out of it well. I hope so - and continuing good luck with that. Meanwhile, as I near the close of this stage of the Hoover project, and a year of writing back home in Ireland, I'd like your thoughts on the following. In the King section of my book, I shall clearly be examining once again the attitude of Hoover and the Bureau to the civil rights leader. And that section will clearly culminate with King's death. Assuming you yourself are not proceeding right now with the fresh information on the assassination we discussed, may I have your permission to summarise it in my own? I am thinking of something similar to the summation we did as a book proposal. I think this would give a punch to that section for my book, and perhaps lead to new discussion and news, just possibly to some fresh way to open up the assassination story.

I would of course clear the relevant piece of my manuscript with you. It's your information, and I shall of course only write it - in any form - with your go-ahead. Best from us all here, as Kathy, Paul, and I go frantically into the last research lap.



P.S. Enclosed a copy of what we sent to Sterling Lord, to save you digging it out.

## "THE KING CONSPIRACIES"

### The Murder of Martin Luther King - A proposal for a book by Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg was investigator for James Earl Ray, the accused assassin of Dr. King, when - in the early seventies - he sought what he had never had, a trial. Weisberg, now 75, is a former reporter, Senate investigator, and decorated wartime intelligence analyst. His Ray investigation overcame judicial refusal to grant Ray a hearing to determine whether he would get a trial. The evidence he gathered rebutted the official case against Ray, but the judge in the case held the facts immaterial because Ray had originally pleaded guilty, in 1969. Ray claims that his original guilty plea was coerced.

Since 1974, to prepare for the book he now proposes, Weisberg sued the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the CIA, for pertinent records, using the Freedom of Information Act. After more than a decade of litigation, Weisberg has obtained some 75,000 pages of formerly secret government documents.

Point by point, the government's own evidence - either withheld at the time or misrepresented - proves the very opposite of what the government claimed it proved. Astonishingly:

(1) The FBI's own evidence, including more than a thousand pages of laboratory examinations, indicates that Ray could not have committed the crime, and that the fatal shot could not have been fired as alleged. This includes photographs and police reports

indicating that the window through which the shot allegedly was fired was not open enough to accommodate a rifle. No Ray fingerprints were found in the entire building. Many witnesses told the FBI that Ray's car was not parked where it is supposed to have been parked. About ten witnesses, including Memphis police and firemen, indicated to the FBI the different point, from which the shot was probably really fired.

(2) Before the murder, when Ray was on the lam in Los Angeles, he was phoned and then visited by an FBI "symbol" (official) informer from the East Coast. (Weisberg has the FBI's records, which were withheld from the prosecution on this and other matters dealt with in this proposal. He prefers, however, to withhold several names for the time being, for security reasons.) Soon after the visit by the FBI informer, Ray drove east, and Dr. King was assassinated.

(3) Weisberg has obtained a tape-recorded admission by a former official of the union whose strike Dr. King was in Memphis to support. The official says the assassination was carried out at the behest of the Louisiana hierarchy of the Teamsters Union. The tape was at one stage provided to the FBI, which did not investigate it at all.

(4) Weisberg followed the clues supplied by notes Ray had given to an earlier counsel, Arthur Hanes - himself a former FBI agent and CIA contract employee. One phone number in the notes, Weisberg found, was that of a close associate of Edward Grady Partin, head of the Teamsters in Baton Rouge. (The FBI's records show that the key to a safe deposit box he used was mailed from Baton Rouge shortly after Ray had left that city.) An address in Ray's notes led

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Weisberg to a house in New Orleans owned by the same Partin associate. Partin, who had been close to the late Teamsters' boss Jimmy Hoffa, became a spy for the Justice Department. This led to Hoffa's conviction. For this service, twenty-five criminal charges against Partin, two of them relating to capital offenses, were dropped.

(4) Three days before Dr. King's assassination the FBI was warned that he would be killed in Memphis. The FBI did not warn Dr. King, and long tried to suppress the records that reveal the Bureau had advance warning. They were eventually disclosed to Weisberg by compulsion of a court order.

(5) Ray's communications with his lawyers were systematically intercepted and Xeroxed, in violation of the court's order. So was correspondence with the original trial judge himself. Weisberg has copies from the files of the FBI and the prosecutor. The judge died in troubling circumstances while drafting what Weisberg and Ray's then counsel believe was an order for a trial. The judge's chambers were immediately cleansed of everything to do with the case. Even his desk calendar was removed.

Weisberg and Ray's former counsel believe that the previously secret official evidence - the backbone of the proposed book - are enough to force a reopening of the criminal investigation, and ultimately to Ray's release. The only legal channel open to Ray is "New evidence," and this is it.