



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
KINGSTON, ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

30 June 1969

Earl McRae
Toronto Star

Dear Earl:

Thanks for the pieces on Ray. I was glad to get them, glad to see stuff in print, and glad to help. I am not concerned about being cited as a source. I expect that if I pass material you will check it for yourself and can then write on your own authority.

When Huie first talked with Dick Sprague, he said that he had interviewed three people who saw Ray and Raoul together. All of Huie's initial stories are different now, however. He and Percy Forman are Tweedledum and Tweedledee dancing on the grave of Ray's innocence, and splitting the gravedigger's loot.

If it is possible for you to do so without breaking a confidence, would you please tell me the addresses of Mrs. Claire Keating, the Ottawa woman who knew Ray, and of Blanch van Lueven, who knew Ray in Toronto.

I am trying to find the names of those whom Huie talked to; if I learn them, I'll tell you.

What follows may be too late to be of any use to you, but consider it and do with it what you like. It concerns (the real) Eric Galt and one of the pictures that show "Frenchy", one of the three "tramps" arrested after JFK was shot (copy of the picture in question is enclosed). Galt was first interviewed by three friends of mine, but I first got the story from Sprague and later confirmed it in a personal interview with Galt.

The three friends went to Toronto shortly after Ray was arrested in early June 1968. They talked with witnesses in Toronto who might have seen "Ray". At the time there was a suspicion that in fact it was Frenchy who was moving under the aliases that are attributed to Ray, so they showed the witnesses various pictures, including Ray and Frenchy. None identified either Ray or Frenchy as the person they saw.

TO EARL McRAE
30 June 69
re Galt

Some time after the name "Galt" appeared in the papers, but before Ray was arrested, a truck driver pulled into the Union Carbide place where Galt works as a supervisor. He sees many trucks and truck drivers, so this is not unusual. The truck driver approached Galt with what appeared to be a newspaper clipping showing a photo of unusually good quality, like something from a high quality tabloid. The picture was the one that shows Frenchy and two others on the sidewalk in front of the Depository are they are being marched to the Sherrif's office (enclosed). The truck driver pointed to Frenchy, and said to Galt: "There's your pal." Galt did not recognize Frenchy and told the truck driver so. The truck driver told him that he had just driven up from the States with a load of stuff for Union Carbide, that he did not purchase the newspaper himself, but had found it on the front seat of his truck after a short stop somewhere. He then left. Galt had never seen the truck driver before, and did not otherwise know him (again, not unusual in Galt's place of work).

What is especially interesting about this matter is that the picture which the truck driver showed to Galt is one that has never been published. Sprague's specialty is the photographic angle of the assassination, especially news photos; he has been all over the country tracking them down. Sprague is certain that the photo which was shown to Galt had never been published in any form.

Of the half dozen or so photos that show the "tramps" in the course of their walk from the Depository area to the Sherrif's office, this photo is unique in that it does not show the armed cops who were flanking the "tramps" front and rear.

If Sprague's information about the picture is correct (he is very good at this sort of thing, and I am strongly inclined to think that he is right), then it is clear that the truck driver was not what he pretended to be, but rather was some sort of investigator who (a) thought that Frenchy was involved in the JFK killing, (b) thought that he was also involved in the King killing, and (c) wanted to learn whether (the real) Galt was involved. It seems certain, too, that the truck driver's newspaper clipping was a phony, something made up especially for Galt's viewing.

All the rest is guesswork, and I am afraid that there is ~~nothing~~ nothing more that can be done with the matter. If the truck ~~investigator~~ driver was a private investigator (say a newspaperman checking on Galt), then his mind was moving along the same paths as ours in supposing that Frenchy was not just a tramp, but an accomplice in the assassination (we are still not sure of this). If he was a U.S. federal investigator, then that would reflect back on federal knowledge that Frenchy was an accomplice in the JFK assassination, for otherwise there would be no federal suspicion that he was involved in the King killing. Regretably, we have only the information outlined above, enough to give your mind a few interesting turns, but not enough to settle the important questions. Too bad.

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Sprague sent me a photograph of his latest candidate for identifying Frenchy; there have been several that Sprague has put forth and subsequently rejected. This instance is somewhat different, for it does involve a photograph. The facial resemblance is close and certain other physical features are close, but not enough for positive identification. I believe that certain people on the West Coast are subjecting the photo to special identification procedures that I don't know about, but I have not yet heard the results. More pictures would be the best help, and they may be forthcoming since we have the man's name.

Still,

Dick

Dick Bernabei