

To Dave Wrone and Gerry Ginocchio from Harold Weisberg, 1/14/90

"AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN!"

That I prepared a five-page memo does not mean that I think the criticisms will have any real significance. My purpose was merely to make a record because Abernathy's warrants questioning. I don't think that historically the book will have much significance other than perhaps in inflating a little Abernathy's role in what King did.

I saw nothing new in what I read so I assume, on this limited basis, that Abernathy does not really fill in the historical record as one so close to King for so long should have been able to do, had he that intention.

I am really surprised that Abernathy knows, or at least reflects knowing, so little about the Memphis actualities and could say so very little about the assassination.

Having seen and heard Abernathy defending himself against charges that he added nasty stuff on King to sell his book and after having read those passages I find myself wondering whether he had something of a different time in mind. I find his claim that his integrity required his inclusion of that stuff is not so. And as I do not say in the ~~memo~~ memo, not having thought of it then, I can't believe that there was the kind of scene that Abernathy describes after daylight the day King was killed and nobody at the Lorraine was aware of it or said a ~~word~~ word about it. The press was present, as were many King people, and the Abernathy-King room faced the parking lot and was on the balcony everyone had to use in going to or leaving any room. With the fighting Abernathy alleges, and the shouting, some by a woman, with all that in the open, it is not easy to believe that it would not have been noted. Or reported. I just don't believe it could have happened and still be secret. Moreover, while this is conjecture, the police had a spying post in the firehouse and it was manned and I don't see how Richmond and/or Redditt or the firemen could have missed such a fracas.