

Mr. Wayne Chastain
Suite 512
Emchago Bldg
9 N. Second St.,
Memphis, Tenn. 38103

6/22/76

Dear Wayne,

Your letter of the 19th, together with two valuable ones from Morse, here today.

In this I think you are more perceptive than I remember. I don't have time to respond to all, so I'll after a brief word from the sponsor, from the top:

For some reason consistent only with the needless waste of more federal money the post office, which found only part of the wrapper of the first shipment of books to you, insists on some kind of paper to you. We have received the enclosed from them. The small piece is designed to fit under the full sheet. We've taken them apart so you can see all you need. If you'll take the time, carbon to us, please, eventually we'll get the \$17.00 back. They accuse you: Non-cooperation. Tak, tak.

Retrival, not Retrived: what makes you say that what from the puffery is a Baltimore man is from New Orleans. The book is unaltered fakery. I needed no more than two chapters. Don't be enticed. I don't have time for crap but I'm curious if you can fill in the real names of these coded.

Bob did not actually say "ay is guilty. Instead he rushed into print with what is probably a safe substitute for a lawyer, a plea for Jim to tell all and expect the executive make clemency for which Bob offered his derring-do in the law and politics.

Flaybey ripped me off widely, as I presume you noticed. They promised in advance of publication to remove that to which I objected. (I think it included some about you. I had earlier agreed to be their consultant. I have full records if it can help you, and I'm sure without checking it can.) They did this to eliminate the possibility of success in the course I'd take without this assurance seeking an injunction. They did not make the deletions. I want to sue. I've turned this over to Jim.

I had dealings with that biased, bitter researchers, too. And, alas, Maginley, from whom I did not expect this.

They are professional plagiarists. They depend on protection from the cost of suing them. I don't recall that piece, I presume in Computers. If I can help, let me know. They deserve.

What other aspect of civil litigation do the Ryan's envision when it is not against those for whom Richard filed for Ray? Do you think Bud? Crazy if so, for all my many disagreements with Bud. Is the Nancy in practice with Richard his daughter-in-law? I fear the son dissembled. Richard does know who the Nashville lawyer is. This, I fear, is beginning to assume Wallace intent.

What I asked about Pacific News and Ray is because of what Ray says about this. If you can provide carbons and no explanations of what he says has been "worked out" that would suffice. He originally disputed much of that story and says he never said it. It would be better if I know what is possible.

I can go farther than you and say Ray has always been his own worst enemy. On his involvement I have said and still believe that he did not kill King. Period. No more. There is no doubt he was framed, too. Remember my title? On the rest I'm not positive.

Moss did not tell me he is Morse. Before you did I learned it from Van Newhall, who referred to a Pete Morse story I knew Phil Moss had written. The elips from him in today's mail, as yet unread, are sure to be helpful. As will anything you see in the papers there on the current "internal investigation," for which we may yet learn in and I can take some bows. Also anything you may hear, I'm in court on this, vs. them.

I'm invited to the Schweiker press conference of tomorrow. I haven't decided whether to go because it runs close to an appointment here in town with a 60-mile gap. If I know I can get a tape I won't go. I'm more interested in the questions and who asks them. The rest we'll know in time.

Your analysis is the one I've long held.

I don't know ~~what~~ they'll say. From the invitation after my scraps with Schweiker he must evaluate it as dynamite, as I hope it is. But I'm not interested in mere conjectures, theories or anything less than solid, definitive fact. If they prove the executive agencies held out they merely confirm the existing proofs of my distant past with the official imprint. I don't think this alone will clean anything up.

Wish I had time for ~~not~~

Thanks and best,

WAYNE CHASTAIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SUITE 512
EXCHANGE BUILDING
9 NORTH SECOND STREET
MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

TELEPHONE
526-8401

June 19, 1976

Dear Harold,

Good to hear from you. I apologize for your wait at the courthouse for my call, but I was at another lawyer's office most of that Friday, and did not receive your message until I contacted my answering service the following Monday.

Your allusion to "sinister forces" of General Haig eluded me--that is, if it referred to our favorite subject matter.

Two recent books have made fascinating reading. One is self-admitted fiction, The Star-Spangled Contract, a novel by the big green jolly giant of New Orleans. The second book is from a New Orleanean author, entitled Betrayed. I am very anxious to get your opinion of the latter, as it might be fiction too. However, I perceive a linkage between the author and one of Garrison's favorite game, Gordon Novel. You might get this impression when you read the list of characters in the back, some of which are identified by real names, and others by code names.

I am keeping an open mind, but it may turn out to be another fictional non-novel, such as MacDonald's book. Betrayed does give a believable rationale as to what happened, and to explain the split forces of the company, etc. On the other hand, it contained some irrational fantasies, some of which might have been encouraged by Garrison or some of his die-hard defenders of the Shaw trial. For instance, the author states the alleged conversation between Shaw, the Leon Oswald character, and Ferrie was staged at the party so that the kid from Baton Rouge would hear it, and so his subconscious would pick it up so it could later be elicited by hypnosis.

An absurd thesis to begin with, but to imagine that Ferrie, Shaw and Leon would even contemplate creating evidence of conspiracy that could later be uncovered staggers the most naive imagination.

I do not want to get in the Livingston controversy. As two attorneys living in a small place like Memphis, Bob and I have to maintain a modus vivendi. Personally, I like Bob. I think he is naive about politics, and I share your evaluation of his perception of the more subtle issues of the Ray case.

However, I do not recall any public statement he made, stating Ray was guilty. I know in private, he, Fenstewald and I have all expressed doubts in our darker moments, but for public posture, we have all said publicly we feel Ray was framed. I still do feel Ray was framed, and so expressed this view to a researcher from Playboy, Inc. She and the author so distorted what I told her, that I may have to go to court as I have threatened legal action if Playboy does not retract the statement by McKinley that "I spread" accounts of the purported advanced SCLC security guard. McKinley never talked to me, and the researcher never brought the subject up. I have never "spread" that account, but merely quoted one time that a source is willing to contend so. That

page 2...

was ^{almost} ~~was~~ four years ago. It was published one time in a magazine which hardly had any mass circulation. Since then, I have refused to comment on the incident, especially after I received several inquiries earlier this year.

As far as the Nashville civil counsel, no one seems to know. I have not talked to Richard Ryan for some time, but I did speak to his son, who graduated from law school with me. His son said his Dad does not know who the Nashville counsel is, and that his dad is not engaged in that aspect of the civil litigation--that is, the suit against ~~Time~~, ~~Time~~, for reviews of MacMillian's book.

As far as the Pacific News story, I would rather not get into it. For the paltry amount I received for writing for Pacific News, I assure you I would not have compromised my integrity and reputation for credibility by fabricating quotes for Ray. Ninety per cent of what was ^{said} in the story was gleaned from the first interview with Ray. The remainder was from the third interview with Ray in June 1975.

As far as any settlement Ray claims he ^{consummated with} ~~consummated with~~ Pacific News, don't believe it. Pacific News has wanted me to write subsequent stories, but instead, I have declined and recommended another Memphis writer, Peter Morse, who is a free-lance writer, and a non-lawyer. I told Pacific News I would be glad to help them with background information, and I recently assisted both Pacific News and Morse, who informs me, he talked to you by phone recently. Pete Morse, incidently, is a pseudonym, as he is well-known in Memphis journalistic circles, and the editor of a trade publication which flourishes ~~with~~ advertising from outstanding businessmen.

Pacific News editors were confused at Ray's letter (he sent them a carbon copy of a letter he wrote me, objecting to the story) as he seemed to challenge minor facts in the story such as the exact language of certain quotes, but never challenging or contradicting the substance of the story--namely, that Ray had once told me that either someone in King's camp or someone in the Justice Department was involved in the conspiracy to kill King, because of his traveling orders received on March 28, and because of the explicit instructions, to leave for Memphis from Birmingham on that date, drive not more than three or four hours a day, and not to get to Memphis until the 4th of April.

As far as I am concerned, I am closing my file on the case. Any writing project on the subject is on my back burner, ~~but~~ but I do someday, intend to write a book on the subject. I trust time will give me a less hazy perspective, and perhaps a solution.

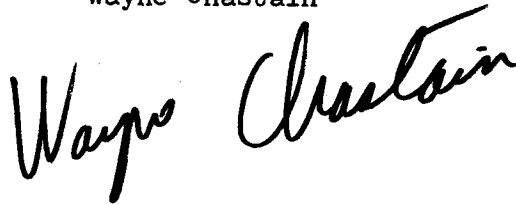
I admire your perception, tenacity, guts and prodigious energy you have displayed, in regard to the Kennedy as well as the King case. However, history seems to be working at cross-purposes with both you and I. As far as Ray, I ~~feel~~ feel he is as much a victim of his ~~bad~~ bad judgment, as well as the forces of conspiracy and injustice. I do not believe he is the trigger man, however, I reserve the possibility that he might have been a part of the conspiracy. This theory, however, is less plausible than the one which I have always maintained publicly and the one I really do believe--namely, he was a fall guy, whom the conspirators knew lacked the credibility needed to effectively tell his story in court. Ray played ~~in~~ their hands, by his inconsistent statements after he was arrested.

page 3...

On another matter, I am getting vibrations from other sources that something big is developing in Washington on the Kennedy case involving the Cuban connection, despite the puerile statements made by Senator Hart of Colorado. (It insults the informed mind to expound the Castro thesis--that is, Castro killed Kennedy out of revenge. Such a theory is predicated on contradictory presumptions: namely, that Castro had no effective intelligence apparatus ~~inside~~ inside the U.S. to gather data on who his friends were and who his enemies were, but yet had an effective dirty tricks underground in the U.S. which could recruit, train and program Lee Harvey Oswald into killing Kennedy. One would have to assume Castro was a mad man to have been driven by such blind rage to have ordered ~~the~~ Kennedy's assassination out of revenge when he knew Lyndon Johnson would become the next president of the U.S. I am sure Castro had access to what happened in the Kennedy councils in those ~~grim~~ grim days of October, 1962, when the Cuban missile crisis occurred. It was Lyndon Johnson, along with the joint chiefs of staff (and ~~in~~ paradoxically, Sen. Fulbright) who wanted to invade Cuba, after a series of preemptory, ~~surgical~~ surgical air strikes.)

Let me know what is happening. Hope to hear from you soon.

Wayne Chastain

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Chastain". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.