

4/18/77

Dear Wayne,

In your 4/14 you guess correctly one of the areas of Kay's error and Lane's misus of her. You will find more when you read the book. It is now available in some areas.

Lane did not have to take your word that Kay was in error. If he had done any work at all he would have known this.

Let Holloman tell you how Lane obtained an interview with him. I have Lane's account from a first-rate and totally dependable reporter who was told by Lane.

Lane is a lawyer, although I have no idea how good a lawyer. Prentice-Hall was on notice, from me, before they set type. The combination may have made them more careful about crossing the line. There may not be a Holloman action, if he wants to file one. I have some tapes of some of Lane's appearances in which he went farther than in the book.

What he really says, if not in these words, is that Holloman and the FBI killed King and that it was part of a long-standing Hoover desire.

If the Buccilli story is true how does it connect with what did happen? All those who were threats or uttered them could not have done the killing.

You have the Anderson column accurately. And it does come from the Sartor story. The committee and Anderson were quite irresponsible on this. I recall your telling me what Jensen told you. I did not recall the name Barton Bryant. What you report about McFarren's (un)dependability seems to be the case. The story is inherently incredible. All the stories.

If you have a chance to check those archives again how about seeing if they held a record or records on the nearness of the ending of the strike at the time of the riot?

Walters was the N.O. FBI clerk who claimed to have seen a weekend teletype on a threat or threats vs JFK before it happened.

Good luck.

4/14/77

P.S.
C.H.

What is the "Walter bit"???
You said Lane had it handed to him and messed it up. What is it? Could it relate to the bit about smoke from the fence or the railway man's story?

Dear Harold,

Received your letter today.

I can't say I feel sorry for Kay. If Lane quoted her properly about her recollection about when the grass was cut in back of the rooming house, she deserved it. I hope Lane didn't quote me. He called me and told me what Kay's recollections were, and I told him she was definitely wrong. I told him there was a time lag--perhaps as long as six weeks between the time King was shot and the time Mayor Ingram and Russell X Thompson raised the question *about the grass cutting*

I have a new agent in New York. He isn't a New Yorker though, but a Memphian who went there to sell my book and another book, which has nothing to do with the King murder. He placed ~~it~~ it with Doubleday. A reader there was very interested in reading it, although Doubleday did publish Frank's book, which is ~~no~~ no longer in print. He said he would have an answer in one week.

Meanwhile, my agent has obtained an advance copy of the Lane book, so he told me today. He wants to read it in New York and then he will send me his copy. My agent is reviewing it for a Canadian newspaper.

Holloman and I have not been close for several years. His office is in ~~the~~ building, with a law firm, where I am currently doing some legal research and working with an attorney on a contingent fee case. I might drop up and talk to Holloman. The only thing I would be interested in finding out would be if Lane obtained an interview with Holloman by fraudulent representation.

Columbus, Ohio
Since I last wrote, Scripps-Howard newspapers in ~~Cleveland~~ broke a story about a \$17 million offer to kill Dr. King by ~~CPA~~-FBI in January 1968 to the Gambino family in New York. The source is Paul Buccilli, who claims he was a FBI informer, who was the go-between top FBI agents and ~~Carlo~~ Carlo Gambino, whom he met with in January 1968 at ~~the~~ a hideaway in Appalachin, N.Y. (Why do ~~the~~ Mafia types always meet in Appalachin, N.Y.?) Gambino turned the offer down, according to Buccilli, as he is quoted in the S-H copyrighted story, on April 12, 1977.

What is your ~~analysis~~ analysis on the Buccilli story?

Anderson
My agent in New York sent me a ~~back~~ back ~~Les~~ Les Whitten story dated 4/6/77 appearing in New York Daily News. It did not appear in CA in Memphis, and CA regularly runs the Anderson column. Neither did the Tennessean, although it carries Anderson's column. I believe the Washington Star carries the syndicated column, but the Memphis library does not get the Star.

angle
The Anderson story quotes our late friend, William Sarto, and his so-called information pertaining to a Dixie Mafia contract on King. ~~New Orleans~~ New Orleans was where it was made--between a Southern racist organization and organized crime figures. Then it mentions the memphian Frank Liberto, but does not say he is from Memphis. It relates the John McFerren story that he overheard ~~Liberto~~ Liberto say over the telephone ~~that~~ to kill King on the balcony of the Lorraine and that his brother would pay him off in New Orleans. Then Anderson comes up with a new ~~angle~~ which I have never heard before. Namely, that a Birmingham, Ala.,

gunshop keeper, ~~_____~~ pointed to a rifle, and told someone before the King murder that "this is the gun which will kill Martin Luther King." Later the witness supposedly saw the gun shop owner in the company of "Ray and Liberto."

I think we have discussed in detail the Liberto-McFerren-Baxton Byrant story. I played it ~~safe~~ safe in my book and did not mention either Liberto or McFerren by name, but related the story. I also wrote that the FBI was informed and took a detailed ~~story~~ story from McFerren. I did not write that Bob Jensen personally told me the McFerren story did not check out. Jensen also ~~_____~~ implied that he thought McFerren was psychotic because McFerren went to him in 1964 and told him he had a dream. In that dream, he could actually lead the FBI to the exact spot where the then three missing civil rights workers were buried. Jensen said he put his reputation on the line and had agents sent to the spot. They dug and no body. He then told me that he would never believe anything McFerren would tell him. This could mean that the Liberto story was never checked out by the FBI. Haven't you and others proved that the FBI did not check out any evidence of conspiracy, but operated on the assumption it was a routine murder case, opting for a lone assassin scenario?

I have held in abeyance for several years any judgment on the McFerren story. I respected Baxton ~~_____~~ Byrant (I first knew him in Texas when he was running in the Democratic primary against Mayor Earle Cabell for Congress--1964, only a few months after the Kennedy slaying).. ~~_____~~ Baxton believed McFerren. There are others, active in the civil rights movement, who ~~had~~ less confidence in McFerren. I am not at liberty to divulge their names, but in private, they joke about McFerren's tendency toward hallucinations. Also, like your friend Baird, McFerren apparently told several different stories to several different people. One weird version was that ~~big~~ big black cadillacs with Louisiana license plates were parked in the alley in back of Liberto's wholesale produce business, with long radio antennas. McFerren supposedly walked in the back of the business to buy some produce for his store. ~~_____~~ he walked through the back door and as he passed an office he overheard the alleged conversation between Liberto ~~and~~ and someone whom Liberto is instructing to kill King. McFerren, according to this version, went to hide so he could not be seen when Liberto came out of the office. While hiding in another room, he overheard two other men in an adjacent room, sending out the fake radio messages.

Of course, your penetrating logical mind can distill the absurdity of this version. If such a phone call occurred, it must have occurred several hours before the King slaying. This means McFerren must have remain hidden for several hours to have heard any fake radio message about the car chase, as such message would not have been sent out until after King was killed.

Yet, I have not fully discounted the McFerren story. Even in his ~~panoiad~~ panoptic mind, he might have heard something, maybe days before, etc, or even afterward. Would a black businessman gratuitously come forward and blast a ~~wholesale~~ wholesale merchant with whom he had business dealings with over a period of years//????? if the

~~Your friend,~~

Wayne

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