

BBC "Tonight" 4/4/78 Ramsey Clark

TAPE ROLL 17.  
SHOT NO. 184 take 1.

DL. Have you learned anything since that time that has caused you to feel that there ought to be a completely open trial now.

RC I preferred at the time that there be a completely open trial, it was his judgement, he had the right that every American citizen has to plead guilty if he chooses, he chose at that time, it was too bad, now since then he has asked for a new trial,

VSA  
Pob

I have consistently favoured a new trial, there are legal problems but in emotional terms history still requires that he have a trial if he wants one, I preferred that he had a trial, it's the best thing to do for this country but eh.....

DL. Why do you say there should be a new trial.

RC. Because a trial satisfied profound doubts that people have, eh was he forced to do this, was it voluntary was it a cover up and the trial has not a perfectly satisfying quality, but at least it has an openness, it has a chance for people to speak out and act out, we have a constitutional right to an open and speedy trial, I think the country and the world would feel better if there was a trial.

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DL. What's your own view about some of the questions that have been raised about the case.

RC. I'm very disturbed about the infiltration and subversive activity if you will, that's been revealed about the FBI.

DL. Did you know about that at the time.

RC. No of course not um you know I knew that eh Mr. Hoover didn't like Dr. King you couldn't live in this country and not know it but I'm in a face to face way with both Dr. King who was a very great man to him I was fully devoted