

9/11/77

Dear Art,

On good authority I have it that Jeff Cohen has finally broken with Lane and Freed over an unspecified (to me) ripoff. It may have to do with the movie they, Lane and Freed, are working on. I think this extends to a fellow named Tom Miller, who has just brought out some kind of offbeat assassination book. Freed wrote the foreward and before the book was out Miller had had too much of Freed.

I have no reason to believe that this extends to Lifton, who was Cohen's associate in the insane New Times piece that had Jerry Ray was Raoul. Jerry, literally, can't make a turn while driving a car and talk at the same time.

If your new schedule permits it could be helpful if you could talk to Cohen and get whatever he will say. What interests me is how he, meaning in person and as the representative of the Freed branch of Ripoff Associates, backgrounded Lane on the King assassination, of which Lane knew less than nothing.

I don't remember my source but this is said to have included giving him either copies of or the content of several pieces by Les Payne in Newsday, syndicated.

It may be that Cohen flew to Washington to do this.

Cohen was in Memphis during the evidentiary hearing so he got a grounding in the King assassination from Jim Casar's work and mine produced at that hearing. He also appears to have obtained copies of some of the exhibits in that hearing. There is nothing wrong with this but I find myself wondering if he used his own money to buy court records at the inflated price per page. Lane also has copies of some, which does not have to mean that he got them from or through Freed or paid Freed to have his honchos get them. Lane sent a couple of girls to Memphis to do some work for him. They could have obtained the records from the clerk of the court.

I doubt Cohen will talk on tape but that would be fine. I doubt he'd talk to me because of his previous associates, who are not among my friends. Especially not if he is still palsy with Lifton.

Thanks of you can.

Best,