

Dear Jimmy,

7/11/85

The timing of your letter of the 8th is good: I'm tired from what for me was a big job, filing about 60 pages as my own lawyer, and the heat, which I can't take any more, has me in the house. So I'll go over the various matters and will repeat what you said so you won't have to look it up.

With regard to the De Soto Motel, I disagree with what you said about the FBI skipping it because I saw records of its agents being there when they were checking out the source of the beer and the bag it was in. I also know they were there earlier from my own interviews there. I also spoke to one of the two maids and she remembered you and when the FBI was there. As I now recall, within 24 hours.

I have no personal interest in prodding your recollection about what I think is a little out of the ordinary that I picked up but if I give you too strong a hint it will lose the possible value to you in whatever you think you can do about that business. So, I'm trying to get you to think of a few things on your own.

Frankly, until the De Soto, I'd never heard of a "hot sheet joint," which is what it and the others like it in Miss. were called. My own experiences in registering at motels is limited to legitimate places. I saw De Soto registrations and the form of registering there is not identical with what I'd observed before or since then. Thus you can, I think, give some credibility to what you are trying to do by trying to recall in detail how you registered.

Think then about what if anything you did after you registered. How did you get where they directed you to go and when you got there what, if anything, did you find or decide or, if you did anything, do. From what I was told you ought be able to give me some descriptions at the least. And I think you should recall if you start in your thinking when you got there and then try to recall anything thereafter.

I think you are confused on the highway numbers and believe you were correct to begin with, that it is 51, which runs north and south and was bypassed by I55. 79 comes from the southeast and you may well have come in on it but that is where the drug store is, as I recall, and the motel was a little to the southwest of there. Maybe you have confused Whitehaven, which is where the drugs store is, and Southaven, which is on the very border and directly north of the motel on 51.

This gets to an area you never discussed with me and I'll not make an issue of it now if you still don't, but how you could pinpoint that particular motel and what is unique about it, whether or not you were aware of that uniqueness, is not easy to understand except in terms of having been directed to it. First, in addition, it is out of the way and second, there were too many others that were convenient.

This gets to another such area, and I'm inclined to agree with your explanation, that the FBI got the Corinth registration and could not reconcile it with the April 1 Piedmont Laundry records. So, not wanting any evidence that could indicate a conspiracy, and you obviously could not have been at both places the same day, they ignored Corinth. Perhaps for the same reason, the DeSoto, but I think they may have had a special reason, again indication of a possible conspiracy, conscious or unconscious on your part.

Meanwhile, and of course I'm interested, but what you may have to face, is explaining how you could have been in both Atlanta at the Piedmont and at the Corinth motel at the same time. I can, of course, think of a simple explanation, but this is something you did not go into with me.

I seem to recall that the manager of the De Soto when I was there told me that it had been sold. I gave all that info to Bob Livingston, who was supposed to carry it forward and get affidavits from the maids. As you know, he didn't.

I did not learn that he hadn't until it was not possible for me to go back there. You may not recall it but Jim and I were working around the clock, preparing each night for the next day in court. We got little sleep.

It is interesting that the Birmingham motel check was not made until right after the guilty plea. As I recall it, there were exhaustive motel checks right away. So I do not recall the reason for the 4/69 check in Birmingham. Obviously if they had to do it in 1969 it was because they had not done it in 1968, and they had some reason for it.

I am aware of several other areas in which you were not forthcoming with me and I do not press you about them now. But I do tell you that you made a serious mistake then and that it might serve your interest to do it now. Without hints from me.

This reminds me, I did examine the Atlanta map the FBI got at Garner's and it was marked to indicate King locations. Also one particular cloverleaf. I saw the map itself in Bubba Blackwell's files on the case and a photographic copy of parts that the FBI has and originally had and told the court it does not have. It was hidden in an Atlanta subfile. How a stranger to Atlanta could have made those markings and found the parking lot, of all the parking lots in Atlanta, at which the car was found, is without explanation other than the official one, that you made those marks. (And I don't recall that you told me how you got from that parking lot.)

As I think more about this, and with the passing of time even a good memory can play tricks, the FBI says the beer came from the Southaven Minnow Shop, and that is on 51, too. It sticks in my mind that the DeSoto had a street number although it was out in the country and that it is something like 5800. But I'm sure it is on 51 and this leads me to raise questions with you for you to think of yourself. It is not of any special interest to me, but how good are your sources if they tell you the De Soto is on a highway on which you reached the Memphis area when it is no and why would they have misled you? Or if they did not intend to mislead, provide you with any information that is not correct?

It also ^{sticks} sticks in my mind that the FBI was at the De Soto more than once and that one of the times was the Saturday after King was killed. The second time I'm pretty sure I learned from an FBI report which did not have to do with registrations. This also indicates that you have the wrong belief, that in saying the FBI said the De Soto is on 51 they were just going along with what you said in what you filed. ...Als if I recall correctly, 51 had been the main highway to New Orleans but when I55 was completed, it was the better and faster road there. Obviously, I can think of a reason for your being on a New Orleans road, even though you have not told me. You did with regard to the Rebel, but not how you knew about the Rebel, which is not near or convenient to the De Soto. You told me you met Raoul at the Rebel but you did not say you met him at the DeSoto or were told to go there and how to get there.

With regard to the classified files, I think you'll get nowhere going in that direction because their claim of classification will be supported by the courts as "national security" on two grounds, protection of sources in their dirty works against King and protection of foreign sources in the staff they got from the RCMP, Scotland Yard, etc., and sometimes local, domestic police. And I think, too, that you are spinning your wheels in expecting to be able to prove that the FBI offed King.

Have you any idea why they do not want to return the title to the car to you? Why do they go to all that trouble and litigation? Hanes has no standing because he did not work for you. His claim, if any, is against Hanes, who has no title to the car. (I think you'll be better off if you can have any decision delayed until the car is 25 years old, when it classifies as an antique car. Mine is a little older, 1965.)

Be careful of Jerry, who is really crazy. He keeps calling me up in the wee hours when he knows I'm not well, too. I hang up on him but he doesn't learn. Good luck,