

Beel

11/19/74

Yesterday you mailed me the first page and the first 4 grafs of the second page of a letter your attached notes describes as "from an ex-FBI man." Your reason was because this might interest me.

It does. I presume the source is Murtagh. What interests me is the meaningless generality and the absence of specifics he can provide, given the disposition.

Unless there is a brave new informational world in what you cut of he's said much more, and much more impressively (and less self-servingly) on TV.

The record persuades that there is no purpose to be gained by giving you cautions but this gibberish preempts the unwelcome suggestion again.

There is no substitute for factual knowledge in making this kind of evaluation. There is factual information he could have supplied instead of some of the misleading generalities, where he is careful to label it as opinion. Some, for example, is what your erstwhile enemy (against whom I did also caution you) fucked up several years ago, at an inspiration I can't specify and don't pretend to. But because you found it inappropriate to describe what you deemed it necessary to withhold by scissors I have no way of carrying this further and under the circumstances no disposition to take the writing time. However, if you want more and he didn't give it #I'm again going under the belief this is Murtagh - he was part of the (anti) King operation, at least in Atlanta. Perhaps it is in earlier correspondence you have deemed it inadvisable to share with me. But there is much more this man knows, including about anti-King surveillance.

Another caution: watch these guys who get to retirement age before they develop pangs of conscience. They engage in self-justification and at the least from it exaggerate. Example: only the delts didn't know what was going on or what they were part of. They knew. Some have discussed it with me. Others quit over it.

The opinions he expresses here, which do not seem to be precisely those I've heard him express in the past, are open to question once he gets beyond general knowledge. His guidance seems to me to be in the least likely direction. And four phoned interruptions in two hours discourages carrying this further. If you'd like to discuss it, fine. I'll take time.

And when he went for Bob's craziness and declined even to acknowledge my specific questions I ~~find~~^{find} no reassurance. I think I asked him specific questions and I knew I get no acknowledgement and he did take the initiative with Bob.

Are you not concerned that he refers to "the system" but not to the saint?

Sincerely,

FROM THE OFFICES OF

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Harold,

Part of a letter from
an ex FBI man which
might be of interest
to you.

Best

Beard

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Esq.

November 7, 1974

I have no doubt but what Ray was part of a conspiracy. Unfortunately, I have no or very little specific information which would prove this point. My conviction--and it is a conviction and not a mere suspicion--is based on a very careful observation of Bureau methods throughout the sixties. In both the John Kennedy and Martin Luther King murders the investigations were handled in such a way as to avoid getting the Bureau involved in any penetrative investigation of conspiracy possibilities. This was a result more of the methodology that had developed because of the political orientation of the Bureau than through any directed procedures.

Each piece of information in connection with an investigation such as King or Kennedy was handled in such a way as to protect the Bureau's image by coming up with a palatable answer and getting out of the matter as soon as possible. Lead information was edited by old-time, highly professional Bureau people who were adept at getting the material out in such a way that it would indicate that no further lead information was available, thus cutting off the possibility of finding conspiracies.

The orientation of about 99% of the old-time agents was such that this process went on without anyone even realizing that it was happening, rather than from some sinister scheme being put together as the cases developed.

It would take many hours to explain just how the system functioned to produce this result and it is the type of information that would be very difficult to get before a Judge or jury.

I have no doubt that if there were sufficient funds available to investigate the King and Kennedy murders eventually the conspiracy could be uncovered as it was in Watergate.

If I were working on a project such as this, I would direct a great deal of effort toward making connections between the wealthy oil people in the South and the Cubans rather than the Klan. If the Klan were used it would have been just that -- used. Since the Klan would have lacked the intelligence and sense necessary to carry out a successful conspiracy of this type, they would have bungled it badly.

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Esq.

November 7, 1974

Furthermore, I would look for a continuing link between conspiracies running from about 1948 on through to the present, rather than isolated cases. I would not hesitate a moment in feeling that there would have been leaked information from certain levels in the FBI that would have assisted in the conspiracies.

Getting to the bottom of this matter would be a gigantic undertaking requiring facilities similar to what the Bureau had with a will to use them for the purpose of solving the problem. Most of this agent personnel would be as oblivious to the rightness or wrongness of certain steps in the conspiracy as Jim McCord was in the Watergate matter.

I know that from the vantage point of people outside of government it is hard to imagine that an organization like the Bureau or CIA can, over a period of years, mold rather intelligent men into zombies or robots; but that is exactly what happens when there are no checks or balances.

As I said previously, I have no doubt that Ray was involved in the killing of Dr. King but he was not alone and I hope you people are successful in getting him a new trial and getting to the bottom of the conspiracy.