

Gerold Frank,
Doubleday & Co. (8th Floor)
277 Park Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10019

September 25, 1971

Mr. James Earl Ray, #65477

Dear Mr. Ray:

Perhaps I should clarify some matters. This letter may cross one Jerry said you would write me, but since time is so short, I'm sending this off now.

1. I don't propose to ask you about anything you may not wish to talk about, for example, any matter you may have pending before the courts, or any subject relating to suits, legal actions or appeals in which you are involved.

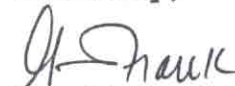
2. I am familiar with the court records and affidavits filed in your behalf up to the present time.

3. What I have in mind to ask you is about things that occurred before your escape from Missouri State Prison in April, 1967 --that is, biographical and personality material. I am interested in you as a person: in your childhood, what may have bugged you as a kid, your growth and development, your attitudes toward society and how they came about, what influenced you or disillusioned you or encouraged you or turned you this way or that --in short, the sort of person you are. You've been painted incorrectly in other books as ignorant, stupid, and inept, and all the rest. I have talked about you with your father, sister, brothers, and with others who have known you. Now, very simply, I'd like to talk with you.

There is only a short time left. If this isn't done in the next two weeks, it can't be ~~done~~ done at all. Though my book won't be published until Spring, 1972, it is virtually finished now, but I ~~can~~ can still get material into it if I work fast and see you in the next week or so.

I'd appreciate your letting me know immediately.

Sincerely,


Gerold Frank

3-9

SPECIAL DELIVERY

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

John E. Perry
Prison Mail Room,
Box 73,
Petros, Tennessee 37845

AIR MAIL



Gerold Frank
Dupleday & Co., (Mrs Prasher's office)
277 Park Ave., N.Y. 10019
New York, N.Y. 10019