

3/7/77

Mr. James Earl Ray, 65477  
Box 73  
Petros, Tn. 37845

Dear Jimmy,

Your letter of the 4th came today.

None of it is in contact with reality so there is really none of it to which I can respond or add to what I have told you already.

I wish I thought there was a chance that you could sit back and take stock and ask yourself questions, including about your state or mind and what you have been doing.

You should but the chances are you will not.

As I've said, I'm sorry about it all and for you.

Enclosed is the last instalment of that stout defense of you by your new crony Don Freed in the Black Panther paper.

I have marked my copy. The marks will show on your copy.

Freed does not say there is no credible evidence against you.

He says there is no credible evidence against you acting alone.

This is still another way of saying you shot King as part of a conspiracy, as the earlier piece said with Jerry and Stoner and as FBI finks.

I have to go into town so I will take this to the post office and it can still go out today.

You have ignored all of this because it would mean you would have to face what you have been doing, self-destructing. I expect you to continue to ignore it and to make up excuses for yourself.

Nonetheless I am taking the time and going to the trouble to try to inform you, whether or not you pay any attention.

If you want a measure of the impact Hershaw has had on the major media I have had one phone call, Jim none as of midday today. A reporter called me last night when I was out to supper. He was not interested enough to call back. He waited until he was at work today. He called me about another matter and in the course of it asked me what I know about Hershaw. I told him nothing because I know nothing. He has not been of any interest to me.

You say that Lane is a problem for me, not you. Wrong. He and Freed are one. They say the same things about you, regardless of what Lane told you. I have tapes of broadcasts he makes where he thinks you and I will not hear them. The end of last month he was still saying the same thing as Freed: the FBI did it and you were not alone. This is no problem for me. It is for you. They both have proof of contact with and information from you. It is something you sent Freed that he gave to Lane, knowing nothing about the fact Lane misled the committee with and smeared their faces indelibly.

The only new change in Lane is that he has switched back to Sprague from Gonzalez. It is because Gonzalez left him no choice.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

The Persecution And Assassination Of Martin Luther King

# "OPERATION ZORRO"

By Donald Freed And The People's Information Project

Following, *THE BLACK PANTHER* presents Part 4 of a soon-to-be-published book on the conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King, written by noted author/researcher Donald Freed and the People's Information Project.

## PART 4

Who stood to profit by the removal of this leader who believed in "unearned suffering?" A man who, like one of his models, Mahatma Gandhi, practiced the power of passive resistance of evil, and who like Gandhi was slain, all the evidence indicates, by a nameless fanatic with a murderous support system behind him?

Martin Luther King employed what Gandhi called "the weapons of the brave," nonviolence, against American greed and power. According to studies, ordinary Americans and some elected representatives were beginning to respond to King's call for justice. But there is a secret America and it has a secret government and a secret police — the FBI. Hoover's high lieutenant, William Sullivan, delivered the Bureau's ultimatum in tones of almost medieval judgment:

"We must mark him now...as

Civil rights leader Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING leads protest march, ironically including the flag of the government which was to slander and murder him.



White Southerners cannot be the prime suspects in this case. The timing is wrong. Martin Luther King had finished his major work in the South. He had moved on to Chicago and the

to Washington. The New South was already aborning by the spring of 1968. The candidacy of Robert F. Kennedy was cutting across Black, White, blue-collar voting groups, drying up much of had afforded Dr. King some protection during his Southern ministry. As Dr. King left a Montgomery, Alabama, church, a local racist tried to throw a bomb at him, but

for justice. But there is a secret America and it has a secret government and a secret police — the FBI. Hoover's high lieutenant, William Sullivan, delivered the Bureau's ultimatum in tones of almost medieval judgment:

*"We must mark him now...as the most dangerous Negro to the future of this nation from the standpoint of communism, the Negro, and national security."*

What if a note like Sullivan's (and just a few of all the other "disrupt and destroy" Bureau memos) had been found in the effects of a John Doe? What if a quick, partial inquiry revealed that this John Doe had:

1) been following and spying on Martin Luther King since the 1950s;

2) been electronically invading his every domicile;

3) tried to drive him to suicide;

4) had spent at least \$7.5 million in the rush to smash King's moral authority ("Operation Zorro");

5) "jumped with joy" immediately following the Memphis killing.

Can anyone doubt the result when a United States attorney put any part of this evidence before a grand jury? Would not Mr. Doe be bound over for trial, without bond? There is no credible evidence against James Earl Ray acting alone, yet he has never had a trial. The lack of accountability on the part of the FBI, the Gestapo-like stench of their war against King is insupportable.

White Southerners cannot be the prime suspects in this case. The timing is wrong. Martin Luther King had finished his major work in the South. He had moved on to Chicago and the North, moved on to make economic demands at the centers of America's financial power. Not symbolic reforms like integrating lunch counters that cost nothing. But the same demands that Malcolm X had warned King about, the demands that would "cost billions," and would bring King, as they had brought Malcolm, into the killing zone.

King was leaving the South to the voter registrars, to march on the "Seat of Government" itself, Hoover's term (for) Washington, D.C. No, the time for White racists to kill King was in the fifties or early or middle sixties when they bombed his home.

#### GLEEFUL MALICE

In fact, White Citizens Council leaders were watching with gleeful malice as King moved on the proud North, and its poisonous racism cozed out like pus. Yankee liberals had humiliated and scorned the South and its courthouse crony leadership as sub-human White trash. Now, suddenly, the great cities and their well-to-do suburbs were going into spasms of racial shock and violence.

Memphis was a detour. Martin Luther King had passed along the Southern way on his long Calvary

to Washington. The New South was already aborning by the spring of 1968. The candidacy of Robert F. Kennedy was cutting across Black, White, blue-collar voting groups, drying up much of the Wallace constituency. Martin "Lucifer Coon" was a necessary symbol if White hate groups were to continue to peddle their filthy fascist periodicals and squeeze coins from poor White occasional laborers. King was necessary to a morally-broken, poor South as an instrument of revenge on a hated, hypocritical North.

The apogee of rage against Martin Luther King was over; the leader of the SCLC had taken on new, much more powerful enemies. The time for regional White racists to have killed King was at Birmingham, for instance. There, Bull Connor reigned. And Connor was known to have a vigilante force of former strike breakers capable of kidnapping, beating and murder.

The time to slay Martin Luther King was when racist sub-groups snuffed out the lives of the Rev. James Reeb or Viola Liuzzo. But the Dreamer had ridden out that storm of violence, proclaiming, "The release of their known murders (referring to the killers of the three Mississippi civil rights workers) will not discourage us! We are on the move now..."

Despite his vacillations, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy

had afforded Dr. King some protection during his Southern ministry.

As Dr. King left a Montgomery, Alabama, church, a local racist tried to throw a bomb at him, but federalized National Guard troopers guarding the entire area made a successful assassination effort impossible. Dr. King and President Kennedy were executed when all other stratagems against them had failed, and when the leaders were about to embark on new and challenging policies. Kennedy was ready to negotiate with Cuba, and withdraw from Vietnam, to name just two important changes of policy, while Dr. King was intending not just to march on Washington but to stay there. Only picture the prolonged agony of Resurrection City and the slow but inexorable magnetism radiating out to every corner of the land, finally drawing wave after human wave to the seat of government, paralyzing at last, the city of lies, that the capital had become.

There is the smell here of that old and evil practice of using poor White resentment as a cover for high crimes of state. The inquiry into the plot against Dr. King is a search for a conspiracy whose target was, finally, the American people. King's murder almost produced race war in this country. Was that the purpose?

**TO BE CONTINUED**