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Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12 - Old Receiver Road
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Dear Harold:

Pleasure hearing from you, and apologize for being dilatory in responding.

In regard to this fellow McCullogh, some of what I have is fact and some hear-say, but it does appear that about the time of the King assassination he had been employed in some capacity by either local or federal law enforcement as an agent provocateur, and perhaps simply as an informer in some instances. Prior to the King assassination it would appear, from what I gather, that he simply worked as an informer keeping reports coming in as to what was going on in the black community. I believe that he probably got close to a guy named John Smith who was very much involved in the civil rights movement back in the mid to late 60's, and who subsequently became one of the leaders of the group called the "The Invaders". My real connection and knowledge stems from the days of the invaders, and defending one of them at trial for the ambush shooting of a couple of police officers. This happened after the King assassination. It would appear that McCullogh was a member of this group, and from what I recall probably was the source and inspiration for the idea to create an incident to gain notoriety and publicity for their cause. It also seems in my recollection that he was the person who came up the idea and apparently sold it to the group, to shoot the police officers, and may have been one of the persons who furnished or found a way to come up with the weapons. He of course was never directly involved and was mysteriously unavailable when the plan was to be put into execution and consummated. Of course he was not prosecuted.

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Brother McCullogh and his activities remain a mystery to me for the next couple of years after the invader trial which was about 1969. He emerged in the early 70's as an undercover agent for the local narcotics bureau. These people here, and I suspect elsewhere are totally soul-less individuals who do not even pretend to have any honor or decency. They are far more dis-honest and dangerous than the people whom they seek to apprehend, and in truth society is more in need of protection against them than the "dope fiends". Irregardless of my personal feelings McCullogh apparently operated successfully undercover for some period of time and after emerging became a member of the metro narcotics unit as a regular officer. He remained with them for a couple of years after this until somewhere around 1974. At that time he left and became a member of the U. S. Secret Service, or probably was simply connected through the treasury department into the drug enforcement or such. His exact job assignment, location and who he is working for has always been sort of shrouded in mystery locally, and I have had a least three different versions from the narcotics people as well as the Attorney General locally.

It would seem apparent that Brother McCullogh has since his youth been some type of under cover operative for either local or federal agencies. He also seems to have been a willing and anxious agent provocateur. This is evidenced by my recollection of his part in the invader business, as well as the way he handled himself while an undercover agent for the drug people and as later on a regular member of the narcotics bureau. If you could ever get the truth out of such a guy it would curl the hair on even a lot of bald heads. However I suspect the truth is something that is foreign to such a person. I don't know that what I am telling you is of any particular benefit to you and while not necessarily common knowledge, it is no particular secret. There's an awful lot below the surface which we will probably never know about.

Switching gears somewhat, I don't know what these idiot committe's and other folks have to say about poor old Charlie Stevens, but just for the record, it would seem apparent that Charlie was in the final analysis nothing more than a rather harmless alcoholic who was drunk and sleeping off a drunk right about the time King was shot. What if anything he saw is at best doubtful, and his value as a witness should have been realistically evaluated as a minus rather than a positive factor.

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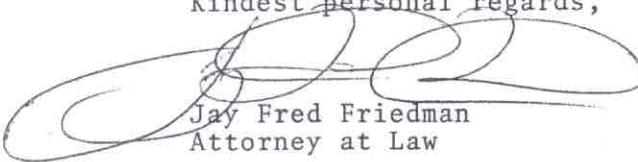
Apparently his common law wife did see something and identified somebody other than Brother Ray. She was of course, quickly spirited off and placed in a mental institution and has apparently been held there almost every since. I don't understand all I know about it, and most of what I do think I know about it is based on what Steven's has told me and some other folks who have been close to the thing. I have in reviewing what little I know of the case and what has come out in the various publications and your book and through other sources, come to the rather firm opinion that Ray, was at best a red herring, and this fact was known or should in the exercise of any intelligence have been known to all persons connected with law enforcement. I am morally satisfied that a whole lot of cover up and perhaps a running of a bluff was done by the F.B.I. and particularly our local prosecutors office, and apparently to some extent by our then Public Defender. They tried to make Steven's into something he wasn't, and took a rather poor circumstantial evidence case and on the surface of it backed down a guy like Foreman. I know Foreman is not yours nor a lot of other people's favorite lawyer, but with all due deference the case the State had against Ray was one Foreman could have won hands down about half way through his first year in law school. I am still rather curious and would some day hope to find out just what someone had on or what pressure they were able to bring to bear on Foreman to get him to handle the thing the way he did. However the thought does occur to me that Foreman being a very economically motivated animal, might have decided that there just really wasn't enough money in the thing to make it worth his while, and handled it accordingly. I don't mean to malign the man but I think it's a reasonable and perhaps fair inference to be drawn from the facts.

I have heard nothing of from or much about the committee, and suspect that the last thing in the world they ever really seek to find is the truth. I believe your observation is an apt and appropriate one, that they are looking for the quick momentary sensation in order to justify their existence. I truly believe that with the authority and money they have available that they should be able to come up with correct answers, assuming they really want to. There are innumerable officials locally, who must have known and had a hand in covering up the true facts in the matter. I only hope that somewhere along the line before we are all dead and gone that some of the truth does ultimately come out.

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I know this has been rather rambling and disjointed but I sought to respond as best possible to your letter, and trust that some of this is of use or benefit. I hope that we again have the opportunity to get together, and look forward to doing so.

Kindest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned above the typed name.

Jay Fred Friedman
Attorney at Law

JFF:bf