

Rt. 21, Frederick, Md. 21701
6/24/77

Fried
Mr. Jay Fred Diredman
Suite 406
147 Jefferson
Memphis, Tn. 38103

Dear Jay,

What you call your letter of the 22d, rambling and disjointed, is very helpful. I do appreciate it and the time you took from your own busy affairs for it.

So you can better understand my interest, which is not limited to a book by any means, I'll fill you in on other details. For the time being I'd like you to keep this confidential. I've not gone public with any of it although some is known.

I don't recall if I was able to bring you and Les Payne together. I know you met Lesar briefly when the State was trying to lean on me. Les is a fine person and a first-rate reporter. As minority affairs reporter for Newsday and its syndicate he was able to open up black Memphis sources who would not talk to me. We work together as closely as our circumstances permit. He is based on Long Island.

In about November 1975, after my first venture away after release from the hospital was a bit much, Les went to Memphis to follow up on some of these leads. I can't imagine anyone ever doing better, rarely as much as he accomplished on that trip. The last time I saw you he and I were there together, staying at the Downtown Holiday Inn, which had all the rooms around ours marked "Out of Order." But there was talk and toilet-flushing next to my room. He was as little concerned as I. We laughed about it. With his other fine attributes he is a man of exceptional courage. He has just returned from two months in southern Africa, a black American reporter going where no blacks are allowed as well as as where officials permitted. His paper has printed about 30 of his series of stories in tabloid size if you would care to read them. I do not know if this is within your field of interests.

I go into this because I think he will be going there soon. Probably would have by now if he had not sprained a foot. I will suggest that he see you for what you can tell him about the whole Invaders business and your part in the defense and for any other lawyers to whom you can refer him if he want to follow that farthur. I will be interested in copies of anything not lawyer-client precluded and I know you have at least one file in which McCullough pretty clearly faked a case against a fellow black when he was a narc.

Les first came back with his name. That was a euphoric moment for me that I share with you and your wife if it will interest her. I had sort of recovered from the first trip on which I had had to be loaded singly at the Nashville airport but I was taking it easy. I thus did not go with Les. At the same time I made a speech in the South and we were able to rendezvous on our return, at the Nashville airport. He had opened up several of the Invaders. All I have learned since says they were honest with him. I have learned much and will learn much more. To learn that all I'd figure out was correct and that Les could get all this supporting proof was so exciting! What he learned included the basic on McC. He did not mention McC's name in two stories that were syndicated the end of January 1976 and in February, if not both in February.

Meanwhile, I've been fighting the DJ and the FBI for suppressed records on this case since 1969. I got a summary judgement in 1970 and since 1975 have been after them again. About a dozen and a half hearings and calendar calls, etc. I am getting records I believe to be without precedent. Since October perhaps 18,000-20,000 pages. They will make an archive political sciences will be studying for years and law students should study, especially those going into criminal law.

It is an incredible story, one I'll tell you when we are together again or in a book

for which I'm fighting to find time. With all your experiences in criminal law I think you will still be surprised. With a willing criminal lawyer down there Jim and I could reasonably hope to accomplish much.

In the course of this, by various means under FOIA and from various sources, we have out quite a story on McC together, all from official sources. They confirm what we knew, meaning that officials, of course, knew, more that the units for which he worked. He was a policeman, not an informant, at the time he was in the Invaders. You are absolutely correct in believing he was a provocateur. I began with this before Les went there for the first time. I had newspaper sources who knew. It appears that he was also a college student as a policeman. Les learned that the Invaders caught on to him, decided to kill him but none would do it.

There are varying official account of how many police agents and of what kind there were in the Invaders. The members totalled about 15. About half were police agents. The FBI included. If the one you defended could write out any suspicions he may have this could be helpful. I will receive records but the names will be obliterated. I have begun to receive them. I'll be getting about 1,000 more sheets of them tomorrow. I am making a separate Invaders file. Les also has some sources. Whether or not it would now be of value to you and other criminal lawyers in Memphis I cannot say but in recording the history of that great tragedy and the ensuing tragedies it will mean much. This is an integral part of the story of the assassination even though I am certain that neither the Invaders nor the police killed King. If I could get down there after I have all the records I'm going to get and could speak to some of those still around it might be useful. So also could it be to learn which have since received official jobs. Separating sheep from goats could be of some value in sorting it all out and putting it all together.

Your estimate of the State's case is not at all unkind to the State. This is why there has been such fascination for me in Foreman. The simplest explanation is that he saw no money and wanted out. I have some suppressed records holding this opinion. I can see more. Of anything else I have no proof.

On Stephens going out into the country I have a record saying it was with a relative. Hi, cousin.

The story the whores like Mark Lane and the crazy committee are spreading about Holloman are initial stolen then exaggerated and distorted to where they are what is hard to conceive defamations of the FBI. I think they are unfair to Holloman. I've never met him. Personally I'd like it if Holloman were to make an effort at law to do something. I suppose he'll figure it will all go away in time. If I had children and grandchildren I'd think otherwise. Redditt was not there as part of any security. Richmond remained there despite the lies he has been telling. And it had nothing at all to do with the killing.

Your records that I asked you about show McC with the Secret Service. Others indicate CIA. Last year he was in Washington. I think he is still there. When he was interviewed by an official last year it was at a building I do not know, the Safeway Building. Unless it is the old Safeway chain's bakery, which I knew years ago. It is about 1st or 2d and R Sts, NE. Safeway's bakery and office needs have to have outgrown that building.

If my memory is correct these kinds of operations were under your Inspector Tines and SA Robertson in the FBI.

There was an odd incident at the WmLen Hotel at the time of the King assassination. I know it was rundown. Did it have any special connections with criminal activity then, if you know?

My believe is even more strongly that Memphis can clean all of this up and would benefit enormously if it did. I mean by this including the Establishment. I think it would have a salutary effect on the city. It would heal. But I do not believe the Crumpian lunkheads will be able to see this.

Many thanks and best to you all. Apologies for the typing. Sincerely,