

Dear Jim,

1/22/76

There are several things you should know and I think pass on to Jimmy.

After my return I had a chance to catch up on clippings, some, anyway. Not too long after Bud told me you and he would be going to see Jimmy right after the first of the year there were a number of small news items on the Church committee and the King assassination. This to my knowledge was the first time that committee had decided to limit its look-see to part of the file on King rather than the assassination. They thereafter said they were satisfied and had no intention of looking at all that had been offered. I think this may explain the testimony of the FBI witness, Adams, about how naughty Hoover was about King. And other things and changes.

One of my Memphis sources has informed me that a reporter who apparently had trouble making it as a reporter is a sort of stringer for some of the scandal sheets. The name of the Tatler or the National Star was given me, I've forgotten which. I was given to understand by this source, who knows both, that Hagin and Bob were working close together. I would not expect this to make a good news story or one helpful to Jimmy.

Ralph Schoenmann has also been there, also spending time with Bob. He is one of the super-radicals of the past. After Lord Russell died the rest of the Russell foundation kicked him out. I don't recall whether they suspected him of being a fink, of financial dishonesty or ^{had} nothing more than personal dislike of ^{him}. Within my experience he is an utterly unscrupulous man but an able one. He is gifted at taking the work of another and improvising on it. He did more than ~~most~~ any other one person, in my opinion, to set up the Rockefeller Commission whitewash.

He is one of those who practises the belief that no matter how big the lie, no matter what the chances of its kicking back may be, telling lies in which they'll be caught is worth it if it makes a headline that will for that moment embarrass the government.

Association with this kind of person or story also can't be expected to do Jimmy any good and there seems to have been this Bob association.

Tell him also that I'm familiar with the Atlanta police report and that there seems to be nothing harmful to him. Unless any Bob or other association with the Watson story is. They did not believe the Watson story about the threat but had no doubt he was leading a criminal life, heavy on dope.

Hastily,

Harold Weisberg

764 Wildwood Rd., N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30324

December 30, 1975

Mr. Ken Smith
6138 Beachway Dr.
Falls Church, Va. 22041

Dear Ken:

I thought I would drop you a few lines and bring you and Mr. Fensterwald up to date as to what is happening. Of course, you may already know. I had intended sending both you and Mr. Fensterwald a Christmas card, but being so busy I failed to get around to it.

Mr. Chris Hagin who is presently working with Mr. Livingston on the King murder phoned me several days before Christmas. Mr. Ralph Schoenman had been in Atlanta for three days visiting with me and Byron's attorney, Hudson John Myers. He left Atlanta to go to Memphis on his way to seeing Byron in Kentucky. Mr. Hagin told me that Mr. Schoenman visited with him and Mr. Livingston for three days. He said they went to the hotel where King was murdered, and that Mr. Livingston showed Jack Youngblood's picture to the clerk there. The clerk became very nervous and denied knowing this man. Mr. Hagin told me that he, Mr. Livingston and Mr. Schoenman decided to go through the records of the hotel. They discovered that Herman Ballard was registered at the hotel the day before and the day after King was murdered. If you will remember, Byron identified Jack Youngblood as Herman Ballard. They also learned that Herman Ballard posed as a black man in order to have Rev. King's room switched. The woman who arranged the room to be switched for Herman Ballard died thirty minutes after King was murdered.

If there is anything that you and Mr. Fensterwald can do toward getting the authorities to work on this information, it will certainly be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. R. W. Watson

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RECEIVED
JAN 19 1976

FESTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN