

March 25, 1975

Mr. Perry A. Chapdelaine
Route 4, Box 137
Franklin, Tennessee 37064

Dear Perry,

Thanks very much for your letters and the materials you have prepared for your case against Henry Haile.

If you have not yet filed the disbarment action and can wait a few days longer, I will draw up an affidavit expressing what I said in my letter to you, but leaving out some of the speculative or irrelevant statements it contains. I can then also include some other details which I did not mention in that letter. For example, Haile agreed to the admission of certain exhibits, including affidavits by James Earl Ray and his brothers, but when our attention lagged or was diverted, he omitted these from the list he read to the Court. Five weeks later, when I received Haile's Post-Hearing Memorandum, I realized what had happened and filed a motion to get these exhibits admitted. Haile opposed the motion, but did not deny that he had stipulated their admission. Judge McRae ordered them put into evidence.

Harold Weisberg, the Ray case investigator, can also give you an affidavit or statement which may be of some help. In one particularly vile episode, Haile used his black assistant, William J. Haynes, to deceive the court and embarrass me. Weisberg can relate in detail just what happened. Incidentally, does the Attorney General's office have any blacks other than Haynes on its staff? Haile also maligned Weisberg to reporters and others, saying that he was "insane." [Haile requested two copies of Weisberg's book Frame-Up: The James Earl Ray/Martin Luther King Case but refused to pay for them until Weisberg sent several letters accusing him of being a deadbeat and a cheat to, among others, the Attorney General for Tennessee.]

Among his various tactics, Haile did attempt to split counsel for the defense. He showed an awareness of disagreements among counsel which suggested that he was privy to some information obtained by surveillance on us. In this connection, an angry telegram I sent my Memphis co-counsel, Bob Livingston, was not delivered to him until six days after I sent it. Subsequent to that Haile stated that he was going to call Livingston as a witness, a fact which caused me to be very suspicious of Livingston. He did not, of course, call Livingston as a witness, nor did he call to the stand the majority of the witnesses he subpoenaed.

You might also want to inquire into the December 1973 maneuver to transfer Ray from Nashville to a federal penitentiary, probably the one at Springfield, Missouri. The timing of this may indicate that someone knew, a month before its decision was made public, that the Sixth Circuit was going to reverse the District Court and order an evidentiary hearing for Ray. That, of course, is highly speculative. What is less speculative is that Haile probably had a hand in the decision to try and transfer Ray, and that Haile knew this was against both State and Federal law.

I've no doubt that the truth drives Haile crazy. We've noticed something else--that whenever he gets caught lying he blushes very deeply.

My best regards,

Jim Lesar