

Union leads- "Harris" HW 11/6/74

In an effort to make contact with union people in Memphis who may recall "Bill Harris" I learned who its lawyer is and saw him, Tony Sabella, Saturday a.m., 11/2/74, before we returned to DC.

Sabella remembers a man of Harris general description but not of that name who had been sent in from North or South Carolina and then disappeared. White. Says he'd recall is he saw.

He is to talk to union people.

T.O. Jones seems to be the one to see. Several mentioned his name. I sent messages by two blacks, one a motel maid. Never had response.

Jesse Epps had been in the union then, is now out and on his own and not doing well. Had vibes from Chastain.

Bill Lucey sec-treas.

Sabella 20th floor 100 N. Main Bldg. Generally in office St a.m.s

Sabella believes this man used a name other than Harris, saying he thinks he'd remember the name if he heard it.

1 June 7, 1972, Hawaiian Motel, Knoxville, Maryland

2
3 INTERVIEWER: Before you start talking, your first
4 name.

5 MR. HARRIS: Bill Harris.

6 I: What? Bill--

7 H: Bill Harris.

8 I: --Harris. Bill Harris is talking.

9 H: [Inaudible]

10 I: All right, hold on just a minute, Bill. Bill,
11 would you shut up a minute.

12 H: Right.

13 I: This is Bill Harris here at the--

14 H: Hawaiian--

15 I: --Hawaiian Motel. He is sitting here across
16 from me--

17 H: [Inaudible]

18 I: --and we are doing a bit of talking, and he
19 is chuckling in the process. But he has some things to say.
20 He is a very, very intelligent person.

21 H: [Inaudible]

22 I: Would you shut up a minute. I read you out,
23 honey, already.

24 H: I read you out too; you're good. You're
25 more better than I am.

1 I: Would you hush a minute.

2 H: Yes.

3 I: Here is an individual who has lived a great
4 deal. I could see this in his hand--

5 H: [Inaudible]

6 I: Would you shut up a minute.

7 I have seen his hand. I have watched his
8 body. I have listened to him. I've watched him. He's a
9 fine person. I think in some ways because of the extent
10 of his intelligence he's a bit frustrated because--I think
11 he's deeply psychic--because I've watched him and listened
12 to him. Many times, people with the lower levels of
13 psychic ability have this feeling. I think Bill is one of
14 them. He has not studied, I don't think, to the extent
15 you and I have, David. And I think maybe we can introduce
16 him to some areas of study that will mean a great deal to
17 him, and I will try to do so. But I am going to leave this
18 tape on because he has had some very significant
19 experiences in his life that are interesting to listen to
20 and to assess. And so, Bill, come on; in an organized way
21 say how it is with you.

22 H: I've been tied up with organized labor for
23 the last 11 years.

24 I: All right, organized labor in what form?

25 H: In form of organizing.

1 I: What level?

2 H: In organizing labor form and the form of
3 deciding where we strike and when we strike.

4 I: What union?

5 H: Public employees. I was with Martin
6 Luther King when he struck in Memphis, Tennessee. I was
7 with Jim Pierce when we decided whether we were going to
8 strike in Memphis. And I was the predominant figure
9 to [one word inaudible] that this was the place where we
10 ought to decide the South. The only dissenting vote
11 there was in a black organization when we were going against
12 Loeb, a Jewish fellow, who was elected by organized labor
13 in Memphis. And then the president of the AFSCME Corpora-
14 tion, was Jerry Wurf, decided we would win in AFSCME and
15 we would win in Memphis, regardless of whether we had to
16 sacrifice who it was and what it was.

17 I firmly believe that Martin Luther King was
18 a sacrifice for the labor movement. He was killed by the
19 labor movement. They can accuse who they want to. But I
20 firmly believe that Mr. Ray, or whoever it was, was
21 committed to kill Martin Luther King was killed by
22 assassins, assassins unknown, was killed by the labor
23 movement.

24 I: Now--

25 H: And I'll tell you why. Because Jerry Wurf

1 at that time was committed. When I was at the last
2 meeting with Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee--and
3 I was present when the president of the union was there--
4 I was their national organizer, their regional director.

5 I: Of what union?

6 H: American Federation of State, County, and
7 Municipal Employees. And when Martin Luther King was
8 assassinated, I was the director, eastern regional
9 director, southern director, for the American Federation
10 of State, County, and Municipal Employees. And Mr. Wurf
11 walked in and took over the operation. And he told me,
12 period, I was no longer in charge of operation and he was
13 in charge of the operation. From then on and from that day
14 forward until the 27th day of Martin Luther King's
15 assassination, he was in charge, period.

16 I: What was his name again?

17 H: Jerry Wurf. He was the president of our
18 international. Until that day, Martin Luther King went to
19 Atlanta. Two days prior to that, he went to Atlanta to go
20 to his father's church. He asked that he not be brought
21 back until the violence had subsided. He did not want to
22 participate in any organization with non-violence. My
23 international president assured him that there would be
24 non-violence. I was the principal organizer of the drive.
25 and was--

1 I: What drive?

2 H: It was in Memphis, Tennessee. You don't
3 believe that, do you?

4 I: Hold the mic up.

5 H: You don't believe that, do you?

6 I: Yes, I do.

7 H: All right, I asked him and Jim Pierce--

8 I: Who?

9 H: Jim Pierce was my regional director. I
10 asked Jerry Wurf whether or not he could assure me there
11 would be no violence, no other thing, and we would ask
12 Martin Luther King to return to Memphis. He told me in his
13 own words--he guaranteed me--there would be no violence on
14 any part. The preachers in the church in Memphis, in the
15 Alabama church, in the Albania church, in all the Lutheran
16 church, told me that there would be no violence. And I
17 told my president, and Jerry Wurf concluded there would be
18 no violence if Martin--we paid Martin Luther King to be
19 flown to Memphis, Tennessee. And there was a conspiracy
20 to assassinate him among the unions before he got there.

21 I: What unions?

22 H: Teamsters.

23 I: Other ones?

24 H: They paid for it.

25 I: Were there other unions involved beside the

1 Teamsters? [Pause] Well, answer me.

2 H: The Auto Workers, the Teamsters, and AFL-
3 CIO conspired to pay the man that killed Martin Luther
4 King.

5 I: How do you know this? Tell me.

6 H: I know this because I was there. The money
7 was paid to the man, and they got him, in a ten thousand
8 dollar bill collect; he's already admitted to that.

9 [Inaudible]

10 I: Well, David, you've heard Bill--what is
11 your last name?

12 H: It's a passing parade, honey.

13 I: That's all right.

14 H: And you've got privileged knowledge.

15 I: That's right, of course, honey. Listen, I
16 have had so many things said to me where I could never say
17 anything.

18 H: [Inaudible]

19 I: What is your last name?

20 H: Bill Harris is [inaudible].

21 I: How do you spell your last name?

22 H: [Inaudible]

23 I: How do you spell your last name?

24 H: H-a-r-r-i-s.

25 I: Harris.

1 H: [Inaudible]

2 I: Don't worry about it. Now, you tell me that
3 you think you are an alcoholic. I don't think so. You've
4 gone through an awful lot. Sure, you have memories.

5 H: [Inaudible]

6 I: All right, you say this on tape.

7 H: [Inaudible] any state in the union
8 [inaudible].

9 I: Just a moment. Wait just a moment. Would
10 you wait a moment. Let me talk a minute.

11 H: I gave you some [inaudible] you can't print.
12 You can't say nothing now.

13 I: I would never ever presume to print anything
14 that I ever had on this tape.

15 H: [Inaudible] you can't win if you do it.

16 I: No, I would never do it. But I'll tell you
17 one thing right now.

18 H: [Inaudible]

19 I: Bill, you've lived a life time in a short
20 time. There are others, you know, who have lived a life-
21 time in a short time.

22 H: [Inaudible] as an organizer I--

23 I: You've learned something.

24 H: [Inaudible] My name is Bill Harris.

25 I: What is it you--let me ask you a question.

1 Would you let me ask you a question.

2 H: My name is Bill Harris. [Inaudible]

3 I: Let me ask you a question. Would you shut
4 up a minute.

5 H: [Inaudible]

6 I: Would you shut up a minute. I want to ask you
7 a question.

8 H: [Inaudible] Go ahead.

9 I: Out of all the life experience that you've
10 had--and some of it, I know, has been very, very rough. I
11 mean, it couldn't have been more so in this life.

12 H: I organized all these state workers--

13 I: Shushhh. Just a moment. Gather your
14 thoughts together because I want a concrete answer.

15 H: I never hurt nobody.

16 I: I want you to say on this tape what it is in
17 your innermost self you feel you have learned from all
18 this turbulence and life experience you passed through. I
19 know that it has changed your life in many ways. I'm
20 hoping that it has changed it in a positive way rather
21 than a negative way, and perhaps you can say what has all
22 this meant to you within the last five years. Can you say?
23 All right, take the mic, gather your thoughts together, and
24 see if you can say what all of this has meant to you from a
25 perhaps detached and philosophical point of view at this

1 stage in your life. 9

2 It has been rough, I know. But see if you
3 can say. All right? Here's the mic.

4 H: Before this all happened, I was a beautiful
5 individual. At the point where I was told that we had
6 to have a martyr, we had to have somebody to win the
7 thing--I was objective, first of all, to killing Martin
8 Luther King. I objected violently to it.

9 I: And where were you born?

10 H: October 27, 1927.

11 I: Where?

12 H: In a little southern town in North Carolina.

13 I: Where in North Carolina?

14 H: I was born in North Carolina in 1927 in a
15 little town called White Lake, North Carolina. I was
16 violently opposed to the assassination when I started out
17 with it. I was told--first, let me tell you something.
18 I've left the labor movement since then. I've not been
19 associated with the labor movement since then. I was
20 violently opposed to assassination when I was told it had
21 to be. And Ray has no connection with the assassination
22 whatsoever. It was perpetrated by the labor movement.
23 It was sponsored by the Teamsters Union. He was shot and
24 killed by the Teamsters Union. And the figure you have
25 there today was only a figure. Ray is only a damn figure

1 of the imagination, a guy that was perpetrated--put there,
2 gave the money to be there and perforated for it. The
3 international organization paid politically to assassinate
4 Martin Luther King. They had to win in Memphis. They had
5 to beat the governor there--the mayor there--because he
6 was Jewish. He was elected by the labor movement.

7 I: Who was Jewish?

8 H: Who in the hell it was, what in the hell it
9 was. This Jew there was a guy that owned [inaudible], a
10 damn hamburger stand. He was Jewish to start off with.
11 His name was Jewish. Now, I was brought in there not as
12 a participant but I was brought in there as a damn
13 organizer. I was told what to do. Martin Luther King
14 was assassinated by the labor movement, by the Teamster
15 Union, and Ray had nothing to do with it, not one iota.
16 No part of it. No part of it. He couldn't even fire the
17 first shot because nobody knew where he was staying at
18 but Jerry Wurf, myself, and three other people knew where
19 Martin Luther King was staying at.

20 I: My darling--

21 H: [Inaudible]

22 I: --you sort of bared your soul.

23 H: I didn't bare my soul.

24 I: Well, up to a point, yes. It's good for you--

25 H: [Inaudible]

1 I: ~~Would you hush a minute.~~

2 H: [Inaudible] drop dead. [Inaudible]

3 I: The FBI has worked on this too.

4 H: [Inaudible]

5 I: Well--

6 H: I was there.

7 I: Would you hush a minute.

8 H: [Inaudible]

9 I: Don't forget, I am a journalist.

10 H: [Inaudible]

11 I: Hush just for a moment. You said a lot.

12 There is much that you have not said. Any good journalist

13 knows that. But you said as much as you feel you can say.

14 And that's all right.

15 The knowledge and the insight that came to

16 you from what happened to you as a part of that particular

17 terrible thing, an international thing--

18 H: [Inaudible]

19 I: --which happened has made a terrible impact

20 upon you. Now, you can overcome this in many ways, and

21 you will in time. Now, I am telling you this because I

22 know--

23 H: [Inaudible]

24 I: --and don't ask me how I know because I do

25 know.

1 H: [Inaudible]

2 I: Well, the memory of what happened and the
3 knowledge that you had before that terrible thing--

4 H: I didn't kill a human being [inaudible].

5 I: Shushhh. Would you let me finish--will, if
6 you so choose, disappear, and you will use the lessons
7 that come--

8 H: [Inaudible] goddam [inaudible] traitor.

9 I: Would you hush a minute--the lessons that
10 came from that knowledge at that time in your life--well,
11 they will disappear. Now, I can tell you a few things
12 that would help you if you so choose to listen. There
13 are some very special books, for one thing, that are
14 somewhat difficult to come by. But if you go to your
15 bookstore wherever you live, they will be able to find
16 them. I can give you the author and the place to write
17 to find these books. Now, David and I own the whole set
18 of them, and we read them wherever we go every night.
19 David has studied these assiduously for many years. They
20 are the best to be found in this whole field. They will
21 help you.

22 H: [Inaudible]

23 I: Yes. And I will show them to you. We brought
24 one with us. Well, we brought more than one. But I want
25 you to become acquainted with this and do what you can to--

1 and they are out in paperback now. We have all the hard-
 2 cover ones, and they are very expensive in hard cover.
 3 But they are now out in paperback. And I want you, Bill,
 4 to start reading. You're ready. Some people are not.
 5 They're deep and significant. They are written by a
 6 Tibetan monk--

7 H: [Inaudible]

8 I: The Bailey books. Well, I am going to
 9 introduce you very cursorily to the Bailey books. You
 10 will overcome all that you passed through. Now, I don't
 11 know whether you believe in--do you believe in reincarna-
 12 tion?

13 H: Yes [inaudible].

14 I: Well, you have much work to do yet. You
 15 have too fine a mind to let--

16 H: [Inaudible] let the system destroy people
 17 [inaudible].

18 I: No, listen. Would you listen.

19 H: [Inaudible] You want me to be a part of
 20 that.

21 I: No.

22 H: [Inaudible] You're talking about being a
 23 part of this damn system.

24 I: Listen--

25 H: Look, I've seen the most human man destroyed.

1 I: Every man has--

2 H: [Inaudible]

3 I: --but every woman has too.

4 H: [Inaudible] a whole black nation destroyed
5 by a goddam ideology, a bunch of goddam fanatics.

6 I: Now, just a moment.

7 H: I participated in it, yes. Unwillingly.

8 I: And you feel guilt about that, don't you?

9 H: You're goddam right I do. But I didn't kill
10 him.

11 I: One, do you still eat meat?

12 H: Yes.

13 I: Well--

14 H: Look, I can't express myself like you can.
15 Look, I can't--I can't--I can't divorce myself from the
16 reality [inaudible].

17 I: All right, this is what I'm saying. You
18 start reading some of these books, and you will find you
19 will read them over and over, and you can through meditation
20 divorce yourself from a certain type of reality but still
21 remain very much in this level. A human being lives at
22 many, many levels. And you have a fine mind, and you know
23 that, and it's a frustration to you because you don't
24 really realize the levels that you're living.

25 H: That's beautiful, but you're talking about

1 a frustration--you destroyed--that doesn't mean nothing 75
2 to nothing.
3 I: All right, you did what you had to do.
4 H: [Inaudible] 20 million people.
5 I: Sweetheart, would you just plain listen.
6 H: Okay.
7 I: You did what you were told and had to do.
8 H: Okay, but 40 million people.
9 I: All right.
10 H: I feel like the guy that just crucified
11 Christ.
12 I: If you don't eliminate that guilt in some
13 manner--
14 H: [Inaudible]
15 I: --from your sys--no, you have not.
16 H: I didn't say I'm not going to do it.
17 I: But you did it.
18 H: Yeah [inaudible].
19 I: That's right. That's why the lines in your
20 face.
21 H: All right.
22 I: And you're still a young man.
23 H: All right, I'm dying from it, okay. But still
24 I'm not going to--
25 I: Well, darling, you don't need to die from it.

1 H: ~~Why not?~~

2 I: That's why I want you to do some reading.

3 H: Why [inaudible] the issue? I did it.

4 I: All right, now, we are going to shut this

5 tape off. But I want to show you some books.

6 H: [Inaudible]

7 I: No, no, I am not going to--

8 H: Yes, you are.

9 I: Oh, hell. You can have your own guilt if

10 you want to. Good heavens, I have no guilt about anything.

11 H: You never destroyed a man. You never killed

12 a man.

13 I: No, I could never kill anything.

14 H: What if you've got to sit back and let

15 somebody kill somebody?

16 I: All right, so this is a difference, of course.

17 But--

18 H: [Inaudible]

19 I: Just a moment.

20 H: [Inaudible]

21 I: If you believe in reincarnation--I know that

22 in lives past I was a man once and not a woman.

23 H: But why should I have allowed somebody to

24 kill some human being? Why should I? [Inaudible]

25 I: You've got to overcome this, honey, and you

1 can do this.

2 H: You're beautiful when you say something.
3 You're beautiful when you talk. When you spoke those words
4 I listened to you, and you sound like something that was
5 out of Shakespeare, something out of--you've got beautiful
6 talent [inaudible].

7 I: Listen, anything that I give to you is given
8 willingly.

9 H: [Inaudible]

10 I: I know.

11 H: [Inaudible]

12 I: Well--

13 H: [Inaudible] Don't turn me away. Don't try
14 to analyze people.

15 I: Well--

16 H: [Inaudible]

17 I: --when you are deeply psychic, you know, you
18 know.

19 H: [Inaudible]

20 I: That's right.

21 H: [Inaudible]

22 I: I listened to all of you.

23 H: [Inaudible] beautiful mind. Let me tell you
24 something. Look, I'm a brilliant man.

25 I: I know that.

1 H: I'm not dumb.

2 I: I know that. Don't you think I knew that
3 between the walls even, not even listening to your
4 conversation? I felt your vibrations.

5 H: [Inaudible] you have a great mind. You're
6 wasted. I've listened to your poetry. [Inaudible] Let
7 me tell you something. You don't have to prove to me
8 [inaudible].

9 I: That's right. I don't have to prove
10 anything to anyone.

11 H: No, because I'll tell you one thing, the
12 only thing you've got to prove to is yourself. That's
13 where [inaudible].

14 I: No, not anymore.

15 H: You're beautiful.

16 I: Thank you.

17 H: You're beautiful in my soul, in my heart.

18 I: Thank you.

19 H: Because you proved yourself to me
20 [inaudible].

21 I: Thank you. Well, I am going to cut this tape
22 off right now, and I want to introduce you briefly to these
23 books. We have one with us.

24 H: [Inaudible]

25 I: And you know I am very deeply in love with

1 my husband.

2 H: [Inaudible] I know that.

3 I: I want you to look at them though.

4 H: [Inaudible]

5 I: Absolutely.

6 H: All right [inaudible].

7 I: That's right. Totally.

8 H: That's all you'll get out of me.

9 I: Oh, my goodness, I wouldn't want any more.

10 H: That's all you're going to get.

11 I: I want you to go home and make mad
12 passionate love to your wife, my darling.

13 H: No, uh-uh. Never.

14 I: Oh, don't say never.

15 H: I haven't met a woman more beautiful than
16 you are, more brains than you are, more smart.

17 I: You don't know what my IQ is.

18 H: [Inaudible]

19 I: Most men do--

20 H: [Inaudible]

21 I: --find their Achilles heel.

22 H: [Inaudible] wonderful experience. I respect
23 you as a woman.

24 I: Do you know what my IQ is?

25 H: I don't give a damn because [inaudible].

1 I: It doesn't matter.

2 H: You just--you've done prove to me what

3 your IQ is. It's about 190 or better.

4 I: That's right.

5 H: But you don't have to prove nothing to me.

6 I: I don't have to prove anything to anybody.

7 H: Well, to me you have proved nothing.

8 Because I thought you was beautiful when I first met you.

9 I: Thank you.

10 H: [Inaudible]

11 I: You've got to use that wonderful mind of

12 yours.

13 H: [Inaudible]

14 I: And stop reliving the past.

15 H: [Inaudible] I respect you for your ability,

16 not because of your sex.

17 I: Well, I am a woman too but just to my

18 husband, honey.

19 H: [Inaudible] We could have an affair, but

20 that wouldn't mean nothing.

21 I: No.

22 H: [Inaudible]

23 I: I am going to shut this off for now.

24 H: Shut it off and let's talk.

25 I: David, we're home now.

- - -