

3/11/70 Phone call from Benfro Hays, in Memphis, from a phone booth, taped. Missed first part. It hardly makes sense and some of it is clearly un dependable, like Ray learned about and arranged for Hays through Peter Cherpes, with whom he dined around. Some of it I cannot confirm or dispute, like the contact in N.O. was a "brilliant psychopath" Jack Young, who acted for others. The few handwritten notes I made are with the tape.

He was sometimes inconsistent, like Raul was both the killer and the third man, the killer being a 5'10" blond Memphian (he drove a Memphis car). He says Ray didn't know what he was into, giving me the Cuban story. He says "they" visited him the day before the murder, at the Rebel Motel, told him to rent a room at the flop house the next day, got in to see him there, etc. They then sent him to get the binoculars. He wanted to know what they were up to and he was told to wait. Finally, before 6, Raul said the men they were waiting for hadn't come, so why didn't Ray go to a movie? He told Ray to leave the car. Ray saw the car had a soft tire, so he took it to a service station, which, Hays says, recalls. Meanwhile, the murder. Raul left with the paraphernalia, found the car missing, dropped it casually and walked off. Ray just happened to be driving by and Raul flew red him down. They were turned around by a police car blocking the street (turned sideways) because they appeared to be coming into the area. Cop recalls. They drove to Jackson, stopped for coffee, Ray saw paper, knew what had happened. He was mad because he had left all his underwear he had with him in Memphis and was madder because of what he realized he had been led into. Raul said he had to go to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Atlanta, Ray had just enough to fly out of Jackson, to Canada, Raul got both the bankroll and Ray's laundry (!), met Ray in Canada and paid him off. When I asked why he shared the loot, Hays said it is because they were friends, even though they fought. I never did get a statement of whether he was told this while Hanes rep or later (he said Hays is now starting to talk Doesn't make sense. Ray was arrested twice because the first arrest was so messed up. Hanes got nothing from Forman for his two-thirds share of the contract. Ray was using his "right" name at the Rebel, Eric S. Galt, showing he had nothing to hide! Console has had two nervous breakdowns. Is hospitalized now. Hays is suing for the car and rifle and in the civil suit will do what cannot be done in criminal. True, but from the way he sounded tonight, I'd doubt he will. Ray was known from the next a.m. FBI following to get real guys, knew he didn't do. Ray arrested in Mexico and turned loose. Hays he told Hanes and Hays. He panicked because he saw story Press-Scimitar tonight.