

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Route 12  
Frederick, Maryland 21701  
August 30, 1975

Mr. A. Reginald Eaves  
Public Safety Commissioner  
City of Atlanta  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Eaves:

In your polite note of August 20, postmarked August 25, in response to mine of August 2 to Mayor Jackson you say you are "intrigued by" my "obvious familiarity with the various aspects of the Martin Luther King assassination and with various persons connected with that tragedy."

It seems only fair that I confess it intrigues me that you would expect less of the one man who has written the one book not in accord with the official mythology about that tragedy, the one man who is the defense investigator, and that when you launched your recent effort you did not consider consulting the defense investigator.

By now I presume you have some understanding that if you had you and the Atlanta administration might have been saved international embarrassment and the family and others who loved Dr. King might have been spared further laceration of the soul and spirit.

I am intrigued also that neither you nor those who serve under you had any curiosity about some of the words you collected, not all of which need be information. While I do not and cannot know what your detectives came across in their weeks of inquiry, the Watson story has been known to me for years and I could have told you by phone its immediately (to me) obvious defects and problems. Reporters to whom I can refer you will tell you that I immediately recognized your people were chasing Watson's wild goose and what you would learn.

This can be true of others, like Kerry Thornley, who sought you out.

Mine is the ancient and traditional view, that the primary obligation of the prosecution (in all its parts) is to see that justice is done, not to obtain a conviction. I regard justice here as having two parts, and I can and will permit no conflict as they involve me. One is James Earl Ray's defense. The other is solving the crime. The evidence permits no possibility of doubt: Ray did not shoot Dr. King.

I am sorry that my letter was not taken as a suggestion that without any impairment of Ray's rights and my position it might be possible for there to be an advance in the quest for truth and for an honest solution to this monstrous crime.

Sincerely,



CITY OF ATLANTA

A. REGINALD EAVES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSIONER

August 20, 1975

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Coq d'Or Press  
Route 8  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I received your lengthy letter of August 2nd and was intrigued by your obvious familiarity with the various aspects of the Martin Luther King assassination and with various persons connected with that tragedy.

I wish you well with your determination to get at the truth.

Thank you for writing.

Yours for a safer Atlanta,

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Reginald Eaves  
Commissioner

ARE:hb

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Cog d'Or Press  
Route 8  
Frederick, Maryland 21701



A. REGINALD EAVES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSIONER  
CITY OF ATLANTA  
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