

Mr. Jim Lesar
att. at law
Wash. D.C.

November 3, 1976

Dear Jim:

I received the clipping re Bud and as I mentioned on the phone the waiver and other letter & clipping.

Also, Jerry had the clipping from the n.y. times quoting mac as saying on 5/12/69 that he (Mac) knew I was guilty from the start so he didn't have to bother to investigate.

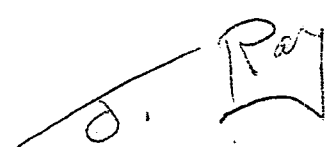
As you can see from the enclosed letter to Harold, I don't want or intend getting into constant bickering with the house committee. I know that's how most lawyers & the legal system operate but that is part of the nonsense that has had me tied up in litigation for 8 years. Further, if I should testify it would not be for the benefit of the legal system nor should it be. I believe any testimony from me should be directed to the public.

I also think we are making a big thing out of what Foreman say, again in lawyer fashion. Under ordinary circumstances he would be locked in by his other testimony in depositions but the court will let him lie with impunity. But what if he does come up with an entirely different story, the press will slobber over it for a day or two but if I testify there will be an opportunity to deny it and more. If it was handled right Foreman could be put in a difficult position.

As I told Harold, I have ~~ser/ious~~/serious reservations about the waiver, which I'll refer to more in the enclosed letter to Kershaw.

I didn't receive the papers but I suppose you met to say in the November 3rd letter that you will have to search for them several days. I intend filing some perpetuating testimony papers on Mac. and others along with admission later and will need them in that context.

Sincerely: James e. Ray

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. E. Ray', with a stylized flourish extending from the 'J'.

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, Md. 21701.

November 8, 1976

Dear Harold:

I have received your 2 or 3 letters recently, the last being dated November 6th., along with the letter to Sprague.

Firstre Percy Foreman: Just what in the hell do you think he could tell the committee that he hasn't already spouted on talk-shows & mags. that he hasn't already? Of course the press could make another exclusive out of it but it would be nothing.

Second, I have been accused in print by lizard-head (Frank's) the homo (Mac) of: dope peddler, dope addict, leaper, incest, murder, informer, sex pervert, along with various other of their pet hates--so why the big deal on what Justice claims may invade my privacy? You saw the letter Mac sent to Jack saying he(Mac) was going to look through the FBI files to see if Huie and Frank may have missed something, or words to that effect. So now you write down here for a waiver on the grounds something in the files would embarrass me or damage my reputation. This is b.s. and you know it. Further, you and Fensterwald have been investigating me for 6 years; it would appear to me instead of filing all the suits to gain access to some whorhouse I may have been in you would have attempted to get the 10 year record of the fbi investigation/harrasment of King.

Third, why don't you let the committee run their business? so Sprague is going to people you called nuts, apparently Lane & company. What if he went to lizard-head & mac's or baldy.

In summary, what ever you do with your file in relation to the committee is alright with me but am not getting into another one of these MemphisMC. type operations wherein 5 or 6 years is spent get^{ing} a forum then it decided no one wants to make the judge mad, or play the good guy role, or we don't have time for this or that. Also, if you write the committee long letters on what should be done and others suggestions be sure you make it clear you are speaking for your self and not me. I am not sure what I intend doing but what I don't intend doing is getting bailed up ~~AAA~~ in a lot of irrelevancy.

Briefly:

Concerning cong. Gonzales, it dosen't make any difference whether he is extreme left-wing or extreme right-wing, to make the point as strong as possible, the only type am concern with is the chamber of commerce pimps and the cadillac liberals, these characters all feed from the same trough.

Concluding, I would leave Jerry out of the case, he dosen't need to know all the gossip plus he would forget everything you told him 5 minutes after you told him. So let's just leave thing run their course, I don't want to be writing that committee saying only I speak for myself or designating someone but if a lot of that bug-house business starts with everyone saying they speak for me I will. sincerely
cc-j. lesar.

Hon. Thomas N. Downing
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

November 8, 1975

re: State v. Ray, cr. indictment no. 16645
Shelby county, Tennessee. (1968).

Dear Sir:

In re the above titled suit, just recently a lawyer representing me in a habeas corpus petition in the U.S. Supreme court phoned to say that a committee you chair intends to through a, Mr. Robert Ozer, appear at the State prison with a waiver of privilege for me to sign in respect to attorney(s) that have represented me in the above suit.

In re the committee's business, I would appreciate it if the committee would first contact the below listed Attorneys before it contact's me as the Lawyers are helping me in litigation related to the above indictment.

Mr. James H. Lesar
Att. at Law
1231 fourth street, S.W.
Washington, D.C.20024.

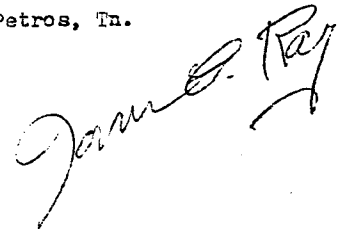
Mr. Jack Kershaw
Att at Law
3710 Lealand Lane
Nashville, Tennessee.

In re the cr. suit, I do not know what the courts intend doing in the matter, relinquish jurisdiction to the commercial communications industry, if they have not already, or to your committee. However, there has been considerable testimony and information presented in two (2) federal suits in Memphis, Tennessee, titled, Ray v. Rose, 392 F. Supp. 601 (W.D. Tenn. 1975) & Ray v. Time Inc. no. C-76-274 (W.D. Tenn. 1976), which I assum the courts would avail to the committee, including testimony taken In Camera in Hon. Robert McRae's division.

Respectfully: James e. Ray #65477

P.O. Box--73
Petros, Tn.

cc:
Jim Lesar, esq.
Jack Kershaw, esq.
U.S. Dis. Ct., W.D. Tn.



Mr. Jim Lesar
att. at law
Wash. d.c.

November 9, 1976

Dear Jim:

I have been thinking more about that waiver and believe it may be a mistake at least at this time.

Concerning information in the fbi file, including personal matter: nothing in the file the least scandalous is now in the file that hasan't already been published in one book or another. There also has not been anything the least prejudicial in the cr. case that the JD has not already provided to the book writers. Therefore I am not concerned about anything in the file damaging the cr. appeal or the committee's investigation. In fact the file would if published refute many of the fabrications that have now been published.

However, it appear's to me that we should be more concerned with getting the fbi file of their 10 years investigation/harrasment of MLK than something most likely irrelevant in my file. Also, if we should ever try to get the later file the JD might contend that since they protected me by requiring a waiver before they would release my file, they were likewise obliged to get some type waiver before they releasted the King investigation file. Another words we would help establish a precedent for worthless information (my file) that could later hinder us in getting the files that most likely will help us most.

I can also see other mischief in signing waivers without in return receiving some sort of corresponding information in JD files.

Concluding, apparently Harold can get all the cr. files Justice has in the foi suit, I am not sure what he want's anything else for.

Sincerely: James e. Ray



ps. enclosed is the letter I sent to Lane re the same subject.

Also, Lane published a story in the Washington weekly NEWSWORKS in the august 26-september 1 issue about the case.

Mr. Mark Lane
Att. at Law
105 2nd Street, N.E.
Wash. D.C.

October 4, 1976

re; Cr. Indictment no. 15645, Shelby county,
Tennessee. (1963). Ray v. Tenn.

Dear Mr. Lane:

This letter concerns the paper I signed, that you had transcribed in long-hand, while visiting me in August, 1976, here in the State penitentiary: The paper being a document authorizing your office to institute a freedom of information suit against the United States government in re to the above titled indictment and the defendant therein.

In order to avoid any possible misunderstanding in the future concerning said F.O.I. suit, I ("defendant") would like to stipulate several conditions pursuant to any such suit:

That any F.O.I. suit directed at acquiring information about defendant of a personal nature and, or, information in re the above titled cr. indictment that pertained to defendant be contingent upon,

A. the information/material include the complete file, including the file the F.B.I. labels, raw files, of the government investigation of defendant in re the above cr. indictment.

B. the information/material include also all material from the J.D./F.B.I. files that the Church Committee declined to make part of the Senate record. Specifically, the reported 13 packing crates and numerous tapes making up the F.B.I. file in it's investigation/harassment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., commencing from the period that the F.B.I. initiated the investigation/harassment campaign.

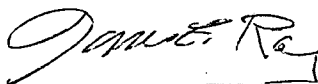
I believe the above stipulations are necessary for two reasons as follows:

1. By agreeing to release information about defendant solely of a personal nature could result in the waiving of possible suits in equity by defendant under the recently enacted Privacy Act.

2. Making a public record of the defendant's personal file, and information heretofore made public as part of the cr. indictment proceedings, would be worthless from any view point. Further, information about defendant, the least derogatory, has already been supplied surreptitiously by the J.D./F.B.I. to publishing companies friendly to the government.

Sincerely: James E. Ray 165477
P.O. Box-73
Petros, Tenn. 37845.

cc/ U.S. Justice Department.
file.



Ray, J.-65477
General Accountant Penitentiary
Petros, Tennessee 37845

Mr. James H. Lesar
Att. at Law
1231 Fourth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C...20024.

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