

See file ref to

XXXX
MR. JAMES EARL RAY, 65477
BOX 75
BATON, TENN. XXXXX
37045

12/4/76

Dear Jimmy,

I did not think there could be typing worse than mine until a ~~kind~~ tendon problem multiplied it by eliminating the use of one hand.

Your letter of the 28th came here yesterday. I also saw Jim the day before. He did not give me a copy of your letter to Sprague and he did not say he had received it. Considering the wisdom of your well-intended letter to Eastland and all the good it did you I am not impatient.

You do say something with which I agree, that "it is a waste of time" to try to engage in correspondence, this is why I stopped it long. I resumed it only long after your new indulgence in self-destruction made me fear for what you were doing to yourself.

But you are a big boy and if this is what you must do it surely is your right. It is not new territory to you.

After reading your letter I found myself wondering which denies a man contact with reality more, an ivory tower or those grim walls behind which you are.

You make things up and then regard them as real.

Having had no contact with him and having paid no attention to anything you have been told you "suspect Sprague has been enough to know that there is something fishy about the case."

Perhaps this is why in the same day you wrote me there is a story in the commercial appeal that quotes over as telling that committee, with Sprague's blessing, that "from a ballistics analysis of fire and markings it was determined positively that a shot was fired by this rifle," meaning what is called your rifle.

These characters were not aware of the foreman deposition and did not have it. More than a month before this a story I learned then all the evidence these cats needed to address the members of the committee quite explicitly on the ballistics evidence. So it is not as you presume Foreman's deposition that turned them on to Foreman as the means of solving the crime and it is not any kind of evidence that leads to what Over did say as well as what he did not say to the committee.

Do you suppose it is Foreman who led them to try to charge in on ~~the~~ John about a month ago?

I could not care less what you write Sprague or any of the others of them. The only reason I wrote you was to warn you. You are down there isolated from it all and you do not try to learn what is real. You deal with the undependable, with blabbermouths, and because no word they say gets behind those stones you assume there were no words. I am sorry that I expect you to learn, in time, and not from me.

When Sprague phoned me to have me go in and see him on 10/20 when he called and when I was then with him I asked for certain assurances because I was quite clear that I would not in any way, even by misunderstood appearance, violate a trust. There was at that time when I thought you could understand that. He gave me his word and he has not stopped breaking it since. Their behavior was also unethical. Early on I told you that if you have any questions to phone Jim. Jim had separate communication with them. He can give you an account if you want it.

I am truly sorry for you, your inability to learn from terrible experiences and your compulsion to be a lemming. So I will not take the time to warn you about hurting yourself. Doing this to yourself seems to be all that means anything to you. But if you want me to read your letter to Sprague I'll see Jim in 2 weeks and will ask him. Sincerely,