

Dear Jim, Lane/Mann/Kings Congress

9/21/76

Les Payne called me this afternoon, suppertime, really. I had cued him in on the first of the stealing and sent him what I had.

He has known for a long time of the combo's intent to rob me. He had known nothing of their theft from him. He has done a few things and will probably do more.

His people also are unhappy. They do not copyright stories to have them stolen.

Even Lane has been trying to pump him on his own work.

His impression seems to be that between them this cabal knows nothing about the King assassination.

Before today Les had already written Fauntroy. He will be writing others. Specifically Ivonne Braithwaite-Burke, maybe others. Probably not but possibly Amy Young, with whom he spent two long days trying to turn him on. Young is afraid of what can be done to him.

Les expects to be leaving for South Africa in about a week. I have asked him to tell those to whom he now will write or speak not only that what is presented to them as new is his work and mine but how he got into it. My purpose was credentials. With him away to whom can they turn other than Lane et al? I think he sees it.

He will be sending me his correspondence.

The Coretta conspiracy belief is Hanes'- red. He thinks it may be Anernathy's, too. (No wonder <sup>King</sup> played the field!)

He will speak to his people about sending me copies of anything they may get by wire and other means, on the assumption they may want to do something about their copyrighted work being ripped off by NBC. I do not expect this. It is too atypical. But I did ask. I told him that if they want it they can have what I have and will get.

Past Les I would not build too much on this. However, he sees the consequences in the Congress and the Black Caucus as we do. If the paper wants to do something I'll be surprised. It would be pleasant, though.

He'll probably be speaking to some of the other cats. If he does I'll know before he leaves, I'm sure.

He will write or speak to Burke. He is sure that Young was not active in this.

He did not know of today's LA Times story. He will try to get it. He did see wire copy that makes Fauntroy look ridiculous; he has to keep this "new evidence" secret - the "new evidence" Les published months ago, before we put it in the court record 5/5/76. This really means the Lane/Mann garbage explanation of the yanking of Reditt/FBI plot.

If he has time before he goes he'll write out a summary of the calls he's had from these characters - and Lane's did deal with Les' stories - and send it to me.

Fauntroy, Lane, Mann et al now have a problem and at least Fauntroy now knows it. The others will soon enough. Don't fail to get each issue of Newswork, which has announced this earthshaking Lane series. We will need them all, including any vides.

We may not have turned the corner but we are getting near it on this.

Les and I are both sure that Freed, Cohen and gang fed Les' stories to Lane. The LA Times carried a small piece so they knew early on. They were, in fact, in touch with Les.

Best,