

Dear Les,

9/24/77

I felt a bit rocky this morning so I used time to listen to the Lane conversation. I think it is quite valuable, will be more so in the future, and that you took precisely the right approach with him. Whether from knowledge or instinct you had the right formula for the kind of person and personality he is.

However, the tape just ran out at an interesting point. I did listen to the entire thing. (The other side, labelled Freed on Lane, is entirely blank.)

I'm not sure but I think you have a different tape recorder now than you did then. The one you had this week seems like a Sony TC55 or its equivalent. That is a good one.

Like most of us you like to travel light. However, based on what I've observed on the Lane tape, I urge you to consider the Sony AK3 battery-pack and electricity eliminator. I've been using one of them and for years the earlier version. Your batteries were going dead on Lane. The pack is of batteries that fit in the same space and are either recharged by the AK3 gadget or replaced by it if you are using the machine. When I got the second one the cost was about \$20.00.

I think your suction cup just fell off, as has happened to me. I have several that pick up well but also prefer to fall off. I have one that sticks well but I can't find it. I'll see if I can find us a couple of good ones.

I have found a way of overcoming the low volume on the Lane tape, fortunately.

Now that Lane and Mann have had a falling out perhaps it is a good time to speak to each of them. Freed, too. And Cohen, who has fallen out with Freed and Lane both. Lane is as big a blabber as he is a liar.

You struck the egomaniacal nerve in him, next to his biggest and most sensitive. What becomes clear in these lies and self-justifications is that the tch'ts were deliberate. Mann knew what he was doing from Freed. Lane, who has represented this all as his own work, admitted to you that it was not despite his prior and later pretenses, and that he did no King investigation. His dating of the publication of the Redditt story in 1968 is from all I know false. It was known then, known when he was there, the same time my source was there. But I've no recollection of ever seeing it in print until I published Frame-Up. However, he has represented any 1968 publication as his original work, too.

I've made a few notes. I'll include a carbon.

I still think that those west-coast operatives of ripoff associates did not know about your MoC piece. He has never referred to it and it is not in ~~Mann's~~ Codenas Toro. If the LATimes did not carry that piece this would be explained. Their missing it is not easily explained if they were aware.

Collectively these phonies have done a real disinformation job. Between that and their stealing of my part of the work and the dishonesties of NBC and Prentice-Hall I want to do something if it is possible. By the way, at Lane's press conference on the book at the National Press Club in May Oscar Collier, who was the editor at P-H, came up to me and told me he believed that had made it action-proof. They forget their sponsorship of the promos. Of course they and NBC were both on notice. I saw to that. I believe I offered P-H proofs in advance but may not have. I have the correspondence, which will establish it.

The information I had earlier, that the Mann show was to have been aired last April 4, seems to be correct from what Lane told you.

I have another Lane tape to listen to, about 10 now, plus some of his writings and stories about what he said and a few about Mann and a poor tape of Mann on ABC. Between these things and my earlier correspondence with NBC it may be possible for people to do something about NBC and its special Mann Act. That's a pun but you are of a generation that has had little cause to know of the legislated Mann Act.

Before I get back to other work National Public Radio taped and rebroadcast the Kennedy-Schwelker hearings on the CIA's behavior-control past. I have a good source on this subject and a good contact with a psychiatrist who may or may not have been part of it years ago-but today regards it as an abomination. I was not able to tape the second part of those hearings. It was the day I had to be in Washington to confer with DJ on King. While the CIA types appear to have been pretty successful in making a show out of the affair it may be worth listening to the tapes if you can get them from NFR. My source should. Best,

Lane-Les Payne

Les says sounds "pretty much like my story." After pause Lane asks "What do you mean?" Les says like the Redditt stuff. Lane says, "Well, I spent 3 days with him. I spent hours with Holloman. ..." after stating straightforwardly that he sees the unethical in it and referring to the attitude of the editors of Newsday Lane says "I don't even know you. ...I don't mind your taking my stuff and doing whatever you want to do with it. But there's one thing than concerns me in terms of the committee thing. You've drawn what I know to be some pretty inaccurate conclusions." Lane says, "oh, really? What are they." Les says he won't say at this point. Because "I don't trust your judgement."

As he says "The other thing... Mark interrupts to ask, "What conclusions have I drawn?" Lane says "I really haven't drawn any conclusions" and protests Les' bluntness.

Lane claims that in a number of interviews he has said that his first knowledge was when Freed told him about or showed him Les' articles. Les says "I have seen this nowhere." Lane says that Les' story about "sealing off the area" is inaccurate, that "Redditt never said that to me."

Lane says "The only conclusion I have is that there should be an investigation."

After cross-talk Les says he has no problem with an investigation or getting it going. Les goes into Mark's saying that "You discovered for the first time that this whole that that is essentially what was written about months and months ago -- I think you should watch yourself, that's all."

When Marks argues "Why didn't Newsday do something about that?" getting an investigation going, "Les tells him "there are profiteers and there are journalists."

Lane chortles "You've joined in now," with an alleged press cabal against him, naming the NYTimes, CBS. " Lane claims all his great effort is "out of my own pocket" and chides "es, "You got paid for that."

With a few expletives Lane asks why Les didn't take his material to Congress. "es tells him it did. "ane asks why it didn't work for you?

Lane: "I came back with the tapes. I called a meeting with Andy Young and Walter Fauntroy and Yvonne Burke, I played the material for them. ...what turned them on (or about or around) was the members of the black caucus." Crosstalk

Lane: "If you've read my article you know I haven't investigated the King assassination. I don't claim to be an investigator of this area. I've stayed with the John Kennedy case." Says he went to Memphis the week after the King assassination and was there about a day and a half. Mentions talking to Charles Stephens. No other names. Says "I don't understand why this stuff didn't surface years and years ago." Les says it appeared in February. Instead of denying that Mark says that was not "years and years ago."

(But in his book he admits it surfaced in "Rame-Up and that was "years and years ago!")

Lane says he said on network TV and local shows that "nothing I gave to Congress was new. It was all published in 1968" Says it was in WxPost, AP and ABC. That "Every single thing that I've talked about was published in 1968. Publicly know. And I don't even know if that's true or not."

Lane has no answer when Les says Redditt's "removal was not" in Frank's book, which is in the context of other earlier sources.

On Newsworks story "ane's answer is that there is not a single word in it that did not come from Redditt.

After more incomprehensible talk, apparently with "es' batteries also running down, "ane says "I don't know what your complaint is. During this Lane says "all I know is I got this information." He also says he read Les' article, which confirms my earlier suspicion that "reed had only one of the two. Then Lane says "The reason I went to see Redditt," and "es interrupts to say he does not want to know that. Lane insists and asks Les to "listen for two minutes." He then says "What happened was Don Freed told Abby Mann about Redditt. ???told me about it???? (meaning it was not an area of Lane's work) But Abby Mann (is on or has) a network television program on NBC on April fourth on the life of Martin Luther King and a little bit on the death. Don Freed told Abby a little bit about what you had written and said about Redditt being removed. Abby went to a guy in LA (incomprehensible)...after saying something about getting it in New York Times Lane says "I

just wanted to get something written that would get to every member of Congress [like the Times and Post wouldn't?] on a local basis...(to have) the facts as I saw they at that time ..."at which point the tape goes off but continues to run. This is marked side 1. Side 2 is void