

Mr. James Earl Ray, 65477
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2/22/77

Dear Jimmy,

When I received the carbon you sent me of your letter to Jim about the Hill and other materials - this was about a week ago - I wrote him a long letter on it so he would know what the realities are as they relate to me.

As of today he had not received your letter. He phoned me today to ask me to bring the carbon to him when I go into Washington tomorrow. I have put it in my bag.

We are both jammed on time but there is something else I think you may want to know so I'm writing you. I know he has been intending to because I am aware of some of his very real worries.

Do not expect to hear from him as soon as he reads the carbon. I'm going in to help him prepare to depose a series of FBI agents, at least two of importance to you, in another matter. That begins Thursday. The following week he is in court against the CIA. To be as ready as possible on that he is having to let other matters now due in court slide. But I'm sure he'll answer you as soon as it is possible.

If there are prisoners there who get the Black Panther paper I think you should read the phoney rhetoric of your new pal Don Freed. Serialisation began in the issue of 2/12. He refers to "the likes of James Earl Ray" and criticizes you, John and Jerry for not marching behind King. I know him as you do not. His will probably be the best of what he writes. His garbage is called Operation Zorro, Lane is Codename Zorro, the same kind of garbage already if discretely killed by the DJ report released a week ago. I have read and annotated it. You should write and get a copy, the cheapest and the fastest way. My copy is all marked up and it would cost me \$25 or more to get it copies here.

Please take my advice and do no more than ask for a copy. No rhetoric, no arguments. Only something like please send me a copy of your task force report on the King assassination and me. Send it to the public information office. When you read it you will find the misuse they have made of the kind of thing I have been cautioning you and Jerry against. They have some of what you sent them in facsimile in the appendix. They make heavy prejudicial use in the text.

Lane made a speech recently in which he said you told him that the registration book at the flophouse had been destroyed or disappeared and that this had to be heavy, like was it because it would show the registration of co-conspirators. You can't have to tell me you did not tell him that. I know you had no way of knowing. I'm just telling you and that I do have the registrations there and at the Lorraine. Unless he has gotten all out of you that he can hope for he'll be back and don't go for that one. In time you'll find out what you have let yourself in for from him and from Freed.

He has had to make a choice between Sprague and Gonzalez. Because Sprague is certain to go whether or not the entire misbegotten committee does and because he has come to hate Lane for what you will learn and Lane knows it, Lane is now detached from him and is trying to stay latched to Gonzalez. There is at least a 50-50 chance they'll self-destruct, regardless of what the polls say for attribution.

In the same speech Lane talked big about the suit he is going to file against the CIA over some records he said were released to him. He'll probably file the suit but the papers were not released to him. I am the first to have filed for them but I opted to sue instead for what can help you. I didn't know it because Bud and I seldom speak but Bud filed the suit. When the CIA sent them to me they said they had been released to a litigant. As I told you Lane is all mouth and bullshit. This, not fear of him, is why the feds cover him closely. But with this stuff on the disappearance of the registration book that he put on you how much credibility can you expect to have if you ever get into court on anything? Do you think he'll say he lied? Excuse the errors. Little time. Sincerely,