

JAMES H. LESAR
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1231 FOURTH STREET, S. W.
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TELEPHONE (202) 484-6023

November 23, 1976

Mr. Mark Lane
Citizens Commission of Inquiry
103 2nd Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Lane:

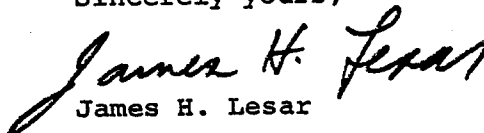
I have recently learned that in August, 1976, you interviewed James Earl Ray at the Brushy Mountain Prison in Petros, Tennessee and while there also obtained a waiver from him. As you knew, I am attorney for Mr. Ray. Yet you did not seek my consent to this interview, nor did you inform me of it. By the same token, you also did not seek my consent to Ray's waiver or inform me of it.

This constitutes unethical conduct on your part. I believe it is serious enough to warrant disciplinary action against you.

In order to protect my client's interests, I demand that you immediately:

1. Send me the waiver which Ray signed.
2. Inform me of any use you have made of this waiver.
3. Send me copies of any correspondence exchanged between James Earl Ray and you or Don Freed.
4. Send me all notes, memos, tape recordings or any other form of record made of your interview with James Earl Ray.
5. If any use of Ray's waiver has been made, I demand that you inform the court or agency to which it was submitted that it was secured without the advice and consent of Ray's attorney and that you are withdrawing it from consideration.

Sincerely yours,


James H. Lesar

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Mr. George B. Burke
Chief Attorney
New York State Bar Association
1 Elk Street
Albany, New York 11207

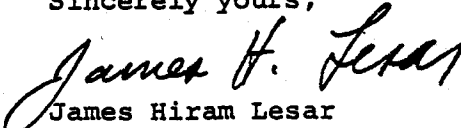
Dear Mr. Burke:

For the past six years I have been attorney for James Earl Ray, the alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I presently represent Mr. Ray in his petition to the U. S. Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari to review the denial of his habeas corpus petition.

Without my consent a member of the New York State Bar, Mr. Mark Lane, recently gained access to Mr. Ray at the Brushy Mountain Prison in Petros, Tennessee, and interviewed him. It is my belief that this was done in connection with commercial endeavors which Mr. Lane is engaged in with respect to Dr. King's assassination. Although Mr. Lane promised that no publicity would result from his interview of Ray, this promise was soon broken. Moreover, while at the Brushy Mountain Prison Mr. Lane had Mr. Ray sign a waiver which, had I known about it, I would have objected to vehemently.

I believe that this conduct by Mr. Lane is unethical. I request that you or the appropriate committee of the New York State Bar Association investigate it. I also request that I be advised as to what action is taken against Mr. Lane as a result of this complaint.

Sincerely yours,


James Hiram Lesar