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3/21/77

Dear Wayne,

The letter you mailed the 16th awaited me this evening when I returned from D.C.

I appreciate the time you took and the detail, some of which I might want to quote in the future. I'd like to take more time in response but I'm more tired, have more to do and daily get farther behind.

I do not always succeed, sometimes I lean too far backward, but I do try to simplify and for the most part it seems to work. I have in mind the foul lies passed around down there about Jim and his wife. The stench of Lane is all over it. Few people know that Jim's wife is a radiologist. What is said about her can't be true. It can have no basis justifying even a suspicion. It is, in short, a malicious fabrication. Jim has a black friend who is a college professor. He is a large man, compared to me. And a very fine one compared to anyone. I know him a little. But they are not together all that often because they both stay busy and he is on a year of sabbatical. The give-away on this stranger is interviewing Livingston at all, leave alone twice, on the case. You know Bob has never done any work on it and has no real knowledge of it. He can't even bullshit effectively about it.

Now on the allegations of charges against Jim, by suggestion on behalf of Griffin Bell and ever his representation of Ray, there is no possibility and the detail is un-factual. This detail is that the charges have been filed with the ABA. It does not work that way, barrister. Charges must be filed where the lawyer is a member of the bar. With Jim this would have to be the DC bar. The bar then informs the members against whom charges have been lodged. Ray knows all there is to know about Jim and in detail what Jim has done to represent him. Jim asked to be relieved and the 6th circuit refused. It ordered him to continue. There is nothing that even a monster like Lane can torture into the unprofessional in anything Jim has done and I think I have to have some idea of what he has done because we work closely together.

In short, this is fabrication, total and deliberate fabrication. One of the reasons Lane is the obvious suspect is that he has been unprofessional. You have learned he is a liar. To call him no more than a liar is to overwhelm him with praise. His unprofessional conduct has to do in part but is not limited to his going in to see another man's client without consulting the case lawyer and the means by which he did this. My knowledge comes from Lane's big mouth, from a place he had no reason to suspect I have friends and people who have seen through him. In fact from several places. He boasts and blabs.

I think I told you the Galt in LA 3 weeks after the crime can't be credited. Now that you add the large black man I think I can see the basis for the fairy tale. This is for you only because I do not want to contribute to the mythology. In the Mustang when it was wound was a scrap with the names of two women on it. The FBI checked this out and another nickname on the same scrap. The woman claims not to have known or seen Ray and the nickname was rightly or wrongly but not definitively attributed to a large black musician one of the women dated a couple of times. All of this was in the area around the St. Francis and those couple of bars.

Mary is very bright. I've never known her to fail to spread and enjoy rumor. She goes for the wild.

I'm sorry you can't tell me more. There are some confidences that are not real. This fabricated malice is unreal and I do not think there is any reason to regard it as legitimate because it is obvious malicious and baseless. It is probably some kind of disinformation operation in which you are being used. Nothing else in this story sounds straight, either.

LBJ and King: you may see motive for an LBJ involvement in the killing, I do not.

But if you talk about motive do you not begin with at least 5,000,000 killers?

What you say Reddick says is about what he told Les. It may be precisely that. I was not there and memory is never perfect.

When you report something as fact to me I have no questions. I have never known you to misrepresent fact. The problems develop with theories, interpretations and meanings. I must be the one who dropped the negative on Holloman because you now say, in more and interesting detail, what you had before. I have no trouble accepting your representation of the kind of person he is as a person. However, he did do what he did do and he did fail to do what he failed to do. With his FBI experience he had to know all the flaws in the official mythology.

I may want to use the story of the false arrest of the week before the violence. It was fuel awaiting the torch. If it enable honestly saying that he had done a good thing I would like to do that.

I may start writing a different book soon and might want to use this. I think probably as the prelude to the riot.

There are different Courtneys. I know of Kent and of Jerry's silly effort with him and I had the report on the other Courtney whose first name I don't recall, the Florida broadcaster one, on my pre-Garrison work and not from him.

So you have finally learned that Lane is what Howard Roffman describes as a walking encyclopaedia of misinformation. If I pay any attention to him I might want to use some of these virtuoso displays of ignorance because he is now making a big thing of what he calls his early investigation, especially at the flop house. And didn't know the name of the manager? But why should he? He claims Charles Stephens was the most astute of all the witnesses.

I doubt he took the time to read "es' articles. The west-coast branch of Ripoff Associates had either them or the syndicated version. So Jeff Cohen flew east to educate Lane. On fact he dies not educate easily. It is the rejection of a tissue transplant with him. (I once told Les that as an investigator Mark could not find pubic hairs in an overused and undercleaned whore house. "ess added "at rush hour.")

I doubt there was much print press attention to the Somerset-Sapp story which is not new. Dan Christensen printed all that and much more in Miami mag for 10/76. They merely fed it to CBS and then pretended to be aghast at the accurate leaking of their innermost secrets. Great committee!

There have been several long calls since I began this. I've not opened some of today's mail and there will be people here most of tomorrow. It is bedtime for one was was up before 5.

Let me close with another simplification for you in your own thinking: the killers had to be those who were in a position to set Ray up and were in a conspiracy with him. If ~~any~~ your candidates can't meet either standard, forget them.

Serry about the typos,

Dear Harold,

I treat the last matter you dealt with confidential concern for both the source, and the subjects of the information--namely, Jim and his wife. I was in a dilemma. This party told me this in confidence. But as it affected Jim, whom you highly regard both personally and professionally, and whom I ~~hold~~ hold in professional high regard, I passed it on to you. You could warn Jim, etc, etc, if there was a plot ~~about~~ to discredit him or his wife. I have never met his wife, but I would be against any disinformation scheme designed to discredit an innocent person, either directly or through his wife,

HERE ARE THE ~~FACTS~~ BASIC FACTS: I CANNOT GO BEYOND THESE BARE FACTS:

2/20/77

MARY FARRELL

1) A party came, ~~whom~~ whom I have known for sometime, came through Memphis 2/25/77... He does not live in Memphis but has been very interested in the King slaying... he has interview Bob Livingston on the King case several times. His visit came six days after a total stranger came to Memphis and contacted me, and gave me information concerning the King case. This total stranger gave me a name which I believe ~~is~~ is an alias. However, when the party I know came to Memphis 2/25/77, he contacted me and we had coffee together. He told me he had been in Dallas 2/18/77 and 2/19/77; and spent at least two days with ~~her~~ discussing both the Kennedy and King slayings. A third party, whom he asked me not to divulge was there. He overheard them discuss two things:

- a) A man using the alias of the same man who visited Memphis the same weekend as he was being discussed in Dallas and the same man who contacted me to get information.. (this information concerned a large black man named Big John whom my 2/20/77 visitor said was with the man calling himself Galt back in 1968, three weeks after King was killed. The man also said he knew Louis Lomax very well and that a Memphis lawyer had tried to bug him ~~in~~ in late 1976) Mary and the other party called the man by the same alias given to me. Both Mary and the other party wondered if the man was genuine, or bogus. The second party said he had talked to him and felt that he did know something about the king slaying.
- b) The fact that Jim Lesar had a friend, a large black man, whose physical resemblance was similar to the man described by ~~the~~ mysterious visitor the week before.
- c) That someone with influence with President Carter and Griffi Bell had filed a complaint with the ABA about Jim's representation of Ray,
- d) That Jim's wife had been recently ~~questioned~~ questioned by authorities (he did not specify what authorities) about the theft or disappearance of some sensitive X-Ray materials.

2) The party telling me all this had spent some time with Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez in San Antonio in late 1976, and had seen him on the weekend prior to his visit to Dallas. He tells me Gonzalez wanted ~~off~~ off the committee because there had been threats--local ~~threats~~ threats in SA--against ~~her~~ and his wife. He said Henry did not feel the FBI would protect him.

That is basic ^{ally} the sequence of events without names.

This party told me he had contacted Livingston by telephone and talked to him. Therefore, what he told me, may have been relayed to Livingston. ~~He~~

This party went to Nashville after leaving Memphis and placed one call to me but I was out. My answering service number took the call and ~~took~~ took down a Nashville number to call. When I ~~received~~ received the message the next day, I called the number he left and it was a motel. The party had checked out, and ~~I~~ I suspect he flew to Washington. This party is not Mark Lane. Nor is the second party.

house Mark Lane. Mark Lane, however, could have been the source of the information related to both Mary and the second party at Mary's house.

The party who came through Memphis claims he hates Mark Lane. He said he clashed bitterly at the University of Texas' recent symposium when Lane attempted to connect Lyndon Johnson with the Kennedy assassination. This party who came through Memphis is a LBJ admirer. He has also gone through the LBJ library for all the documents pertaining to LBJ's actions in the King slaying and we had an academic argument over coffee whether LBJ could have been involved in the King conspiracy. I simply postulated that LBJ did have a possible motive; King and Benjamin Spock could have formed a third party or fourth party as was widely speculated in late 1967. The Justice Department took care of Spock by indicting him. LBJ's highly developed political sense prevented him from having King indicted. This would have alienated his support among SCLC leaders, the same ones who cautioned King not to participate in anti-war demonstrations out of fear they would alienate LBJ who had consistently back their efforts for stronger civil rights legislation each year he was president. King could have been easily included in the indictment which named Spock and others, because King too had made strong speeches urging black men not to register for the draft. Ironically enough, he made one of those speeches ~~in Chicago~~ in Atlanta during the time JER was staying in Chicago. Huie claims JER read this speech in the Chicago Tribune and this further fed his fury to kill King. I attack this as nonsense in my book.

A fourth party ticket would have alienated the anti-war liberals (and that probably would have included me) and the blacks from supporting the Democratic Party in 1968. Thus both Spock and King had to be dealt with. It is only a thesis, and I do not accept it or reject it. It might be added, however, J. Edgar Hoover and LBJ had been close friends ever since the late 1930s when LBJ went to Washington. As a House member and Senator, he lived directly across the street from Hoover and Hoover was a god father to one of LBJ's daughters. Also, Hoover was a very close friend to Walter Jenkins, one of LBJ's closest and long time administrative aide. When Jenkins was caught in the YMCA washroom incident and was forced to resign, Hoover sent a sympathy card and flower to Jenkins' family. That was publicized in the papers.

We do agree in our belief there was no Secret Service man. The question remains: who was the man so identified to Redditt? Was he from another government agency? Was he a private person, either from Washington or somewhere else? Or was he local? Redditt did not know him.

The story that Redditt tells me was this: the ~~Washington~~ alleged Washington man was identified as a Secret Service man who had just flown into Memphis that afternoon. Redditt wondered why ~~the~~ a Secret Service was interested in a murder contract on an obscure black detective in Memphis. He also wondered why the man flew into Memphis? But Holloman told him that the original report of the murder contract came from a Mississippi highway patrolman who had penetrated a black militant group in Mississippi. (There was a series of black boycotts going on throughout several North Mississippi towns at the time). The black militant group put out the contract to a St. Louis man, Redditt recalls Holloman telling him. That's it.

Also, either you or I ~~are~~ a negative. I said Holloman is the one man in the Loeb circle I would have a difficult time believing was a member of the conspiracy. In fact, I don't believe he was a knowing member of a conspiracy. He was a good company man. He did what he was told. If a courier came to Memphis with good credentials from his former boss and told him to remove Redditt, I believe Holloman would remove him and not question his orders. I will say this, I believe Mark Lane did possibly deceive Holloman in the interview, as you originally suggested. I have reason to believe that Holloman has regrets that he was ever associated with the Loeb administration. Despite his avowed denials that he has ~~nothing~~ to be ashamed of in the King slaying, ~~he~~ I believe this was the reason he resigned from the Loeb administration in 1970 and moved to Columbia, Mo. Of course, he returned to Memphis in 1972 and has not been closely associated with the Loeb crowd since his return.

Also, remember Holloman did not have ^{autonomy} as the director of fire and police. This was a newly created office under the 1967 Memphis Charter which had been passed upon by the voters the year and which went into effect on January 1, 1968. Prior to this, the Commissioner of Public Safety--an elective office--had authority over both the police and fire department. Claude Armour had held this office for many years and was a powerful man. When the 1967 charter abolished this office, Armour took the post of State Public Safety Commission when the late Gov. Buford Ellington created that office and appointed Armour. ~~Armour~~ Armour and Loeb were long time political enemies. From Nashville, Armour had more control over the Memphis police department than Loeb did in Memphis, so some political observers say. There are some who suggest that Armour and Ellington were involved in the conspiracy. One source said ~~Armour~~ Ellington ~~was~~ called Judge Battle before his death and asked he not grant Ray a new trial. The story is that John Seigenthaler in Nashville has privately expressed to some liberal legislators from Memphis that he suspected Ellington and Armour were involved. ~~Seigenthaler~~ Seigenthaler, as you may recall, was involved in a dispute with the FBI in the summer of 1976. He testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee, saying the FBI planted informers on his paper and conducted illegal surveillance against him.

At any rate, when ~~Loeb~~ Henry Loeb took office as the first Mayor under the new city charter, he had the power to appoint the next head of the Memphis police and fire departments, now called a director rather than a commissioner. He appointed Holloman. Holloman, despite 25 years with the FBI, was not a reactionary man. He had been associated with the more progressive leaders of the Memphis business world. Also note, that Loeb was not the favorite of the progressive elements, but by virtue of polarization and fragmentation of the moderate vote, Loeb managed to get into the runoff. He was not endorsed by the Scripps-Howard monopoly press in the first go-around, but he still commanded wide support in the Memphis white community. He had once described himself as a segregationist when he was Mayor from 1959-1963. He now avoided such a description, but he cleverly manipulated segregationist sentiment by code words: "law and order," "not giving in to the lawless element," "... In the runoff with the incumbent Mayor, Bill Ingram, both papers reluctantly endorsed Loeb. Ingram, whom I felt had a good record, was a bad public relations man.

Henry Loeb was not a good administrator. ~~He~~ He might be described as a right-wing counterpart to LBJ, whom Loeb bitterly detested. Loeb tried to run every department, and appointed only figure heads to the various departments. He appointed Holloman because at that time Holloman was not hated by the black community. In fact, when the sanitation strike began to escalate, Holloman used good judgment in trying to defuse some of the tense ~~situations~~ situations. At one union meeting, two policemen waited outside and arrested Jerry Fanion, a black man and chairman of the Shelby County Human Relations Commission, who came out of the church where the union meeting was held. Fanion had gone there in an attempt to "cool" the situation. The officers arrested him for jaywalking. Ernest Withers, my client and a black photographer for the Tri-State Defender, took a photograph of the officers jostling Fanion into the police car. The arresting officers then grabbed Withers' cameras, broke it and arrested Withers for interfering with officers in the enforcement of their duties. That incident alone ~~inflamed~~ inflamed the black community. That was in early March. The next day, the two men were to be arraigned before the city court. Masses of black sanitation workers and their family members swarmed around the courtroom. It was a tense situation. Then, Holloman comes into the city court and asked the judge to dismiss the charges against the two men. He said the police officers made an illegal arrest and he was going to reprimand them. He apologized to the judge and the two men, both Fanion and Withers. Holloman was cheered when he left the courtroom.

Rumors ran rampant. Holloman was severely reprimanded by Loeb. Loeb, it seemed, was trying to do everything he could to aggravate the situation. He supposedly told Holloman to crack down on these agitators. Meantime, within the ranks of the Memphis police department, Holloman was ~~criticized~~ criticized by the redneck element--and believe me, it was considerable--as ~~trying~~ trying to bring the "nigger-loving ways of the FBI" to the Memphis police department.

Thus, on April 4, 1968, Holloman was not an autonomous administrator.

4....

He did what he was told. I believe Loeb knew about the removal of Redditt Loeb had the police intelligence at his disposal. You would have to know Loeb the way I know Loeb. He is a political animal. He ~~was not~~ political intelligence sources. Holloman was not politically astute. Loeb on the other hand, knew who was who in the black community, and ~~was not~~ had IOUs. He knew Redditt was sympathetic to the union and the strike. Loeb had businesses throughout the black community. Loeb's political impulses drove him to punish those he considered political enemies and reward those he considered friends. If someone did not kiss Henry Loeb's ass every week, he did not trust him. Loeb's own political people were placed in the police intelligence division. Holloman probably did not know how extensive the police intelligence system was. Loeb knew Holloman ~~was not~~ was in awe of J. Edgar Hoover. Thus, Loeb probably used the ruse of having the removal orders appear to be coming from Washington. Or Perhaps they really did come from Washington?

After King was killed, Loeb ordered Holloman to have the Memphis police shoot out all of the lights in the black ghetto areas. Somehow, Ramsey Clark knew about Loeb's order less than thirty minutes after it was given, because he was informed of the order, and he made a special call to Holloman to have him not obey the order. He told Holloman that such ~~an~~ an order would only accelerate violence, not assuage it. Holloman did countermand Loeb's order. THIS HAS BEEN DOCUMENTED BY THE RECORDS IN THE LEJ ARCHIVES.

Of course, you may be right about surveillance ^{or lack of it} of King at the

Lorraine on April 4, 1968. And maybe the FBI did not need visual surveillance of King on King at the Lorraine. Perhaps, his room was bugged.

As far as the eggs and sausage man, I have never understood your positive belief there was no connection. What is specifically the "non-fact" you refer to? Of course, you might know something I do not know. But unless you know specifically the details of the conspiracy, and who was and who was not involved, I do not understand how you can be positive about anything. I found an old letter you wrote Bud and it somehow ended up in my files. You had checked out JY and told him that he just wasn't the type that could be involved, unless he was hard-up for money. The fact is that JY was hard up for money in 1968. In fact, I get that from almost an ~~unimpeachable~~ unimpeachable source and one in a position to know, as he knew JY very well. And I do not mean Walter Buford. This person is in trouble with the federal government today, but he told me in no certain terms, that he dropped any association with JY in 1968 because he was convinced that JY was involved in King's murder and that he knew that some people with the federal government suspected ~~that~~ JY was involved. Six years later, this party, who once had very good relations with the federal government, found himself in trouble.

Also, I learned back as early as 1969, Youngblood had a pal named Ken Courtney. He was a soldier of fortune, pilot, etc. I never could establish whether ~~whether~~ he was related to ~~the~~ Kent Courtney of N.O. And I believe we discussed the FBI report--you may have been the one to have gotten it from Garrison's files--that told about how Jerry Ray met with Kent Courtney and an undercover man from the N.O. Police Department. That was three days after JER pleaded guilty. According to the report, Jerry Ray seemed to suggest to Courtney that Courtney knew who JER's New Orleans contact was.

And finally, we come to Mark Lane. I have always been skeptical of Lane's much reputed skills as investigator, but I was shocked to find how ill-informed he was. Unless he was faking, he was starting from ground zero because he knew nothing about the King case. That was in July 1976. He did not know who Solomon Jones was. He did not know too much about the Redditt incident, until I explained details of it to him in his Holiday Inn-Rivermont suite. ~~at~~ I even got the impression he had never read Les Payne's articles published the January before. He called me several times, as late as January 1977. He was always picking my brain for very elementary details of the crime. ~~Maybe~~ Maybe he was trying to find out how much I knew. The last few times he called, I pretended to be very hazy about the facts, because I was writing my book, and I resented him picking my brain because I knew he was writing a book. The last time, he wanted the details of the fake radio phone

~~_____~~ the details of the incident were very vague, despite the fact I had just finished writing an entire chapter on it less than a month before. *both of which*

Also, I learned how ~~careless~~ Lane could be with facts. He has stated several times that it was ~~_____~~ somehow sinister that Holloman held both posts of fire and police director, ~~_____~~ had never been held by the same person, either before or after. A simple study of the history of the new Memphis charter would have dispelled that so-called sinister implication.

And I believe he does ~~lie~~. He ~~_____~~ wrote in a Washington, D.C., undercover newspaper that he came to Memphis the day after King was killed and made a preliminary investigation but left. I had read Lane's book on the Kennedy assassination and was quite a buff on him in 1968. I don't think he could have been in Memphis, at the scene of the crime nor could have made even a crudely, preliminary investigation, without my finding out about it. Why he finds it necessary to lie about that mystifies me.

~~_____~~
The reason I did not believe him was because last July, he did not even know who Bessie Brewer was, or the alias, John Willard, etc, etc...

Well, the publishing word is as corrupt as I previously suspected. The Huie-Frank-McMillan incidents on the other side proves this proposition. Lane's work on the other side only confirms it. Truth is not what sells books.

As far as my own literary situation, my agent has suddenly become inaccessible. She has two copies of my manuscript. I can't get her on the phone when I call long distance, etc, and I am ready to terminate our agency agreement. She sent it to Bantam, and she should have known Bantam had published the Clay Blair book. I thought she was an knowledgeable agent as she had placed one paper back book in 1975 on the Kennedy assassination, the one by Robert Groden.

At least, in my book, I try to give credit to the pioneer researcher as I credit Les Payne and you for the original Redditt break, although I had rudimentary knowledge of the incident as far back as 1968. I give Payne and you entire credit for uncovering the evidence that the Invaders were heavily infiltrated by FBI and Memphis police intelligence. I did follow up and get a bit more information concerning the Memphis police intelligence system, some as late as last summer--about a month before the files were burned. I turned some of this new information over to the ACLU and this was the basis of its lawsuit. ~~Most~~ of this information was non-King related--or put it this way--it purportedly was not King-related. But we will never know that the files have been burned.

One last item. What we discussed about Somerset-Sapp and the two union leaders two days before King was killed. Despite the fact I saw it on CBS Saturday afternoon, the item was not in the CA on Sunday. Nor was it in Monday's CA or P-S. I checked the Nashville Tennessean, which carries a lot of good NY Times News Service articles, ~~but no~~ Tennessean ~~didn't have~~ thing on it. How was the coverage on the East Coast? *Carried enough*

Wayne

Wayne