

3/26/77

Dear Wayne,

who has developed a thing about not dating his letters:

There is nothing in my experience to persuade me that agents remain people. I have no interest in your new Aussie and and for you I hope it works.

Sapp-CBS: I caught it on CBS. I suppose there was mention on the wires. But this is a direct crib from my friend Dan Christensen, who was following up my Milteer work. He use that article as credential in his committee job application.

There is nothing new and not irrational than has come from or can be attributed to the committee. It is bankrupt, even if it squeaks by on its dirtinesses.

It is not easy for me not to fault your local papers. But if they carried nothing on the committee's ripoff of Dan I don't know why they should have. ~~xxxx~~ Besides, he did not pretend relevance. All those who had threatened King could not possibly have killed him. So if CBS lifted one on the cheap I don't know why all other media elements should have fallen all over themselves to chase an inexperienced media event.

I have not made sense out of the threat against Jim. If you have a carbon of your first letter on this please read it to see if what you ~~said~~ ^{said} is there is and if you can, without knowing what is in your own mind, find clues another might.

I had forgotten the Baird story until Jim reminded me. He wrote in 11/75. Jim asked me to speak to him. It appears that I found his tale not entirely credible and in no way relevant to what happened. There were thousands of threats. My recollection on this is not certain but it is my recollection that his then and now stories are not 100% in accord.

The suicide of Bob's son is tragic. But what is a 19-year-old doing living away from home but in the same town? What is a lawyer's son doing living in a skidrow dive?

The Cohen (and Lifton) article is what you call it, shit. I'm astounded that he heard of the the grand jury testimony for the first time from you this past New Year's Eve because he was in the courtroom when Jim used it as evidence. What was he doing in the courtroom if he has a problem with plain English?

I think you refer to 1977. In 1976 he and Hagin were trying to peddle a piece in which Jimmy was the shooter, Jerry and Stoner co-conspirators. I understand they almost pulled it the the Tennesseean.

Apparently it is not only Cohen who leaped to the Jerry-Raoul assumption. Lifton, against whom I cannot caution you to too much caution, peddles the same line.

Glad to know that Jensen told you the FBI could not break Jerry's alibi. But another crucial day is 4/29, the day the rifle was bought and Lifton-Cohen say Jerry ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ was with Jimmy to mastermind that. I'm told. Have not seen their piece. But you can see the good your well-considered warning to Cohen did.

My reaction is that neither Jimmy nor anyone else knowing him would trust Jerry to go to the store for a loaf of bread.

Dan Rather interview? They have about 1'45 minutes in outtakes. What was aired is a faint repetition of what they would not air during the evidentiary hearing, its origin. Jimmy said nothing new.

It has been so long since Jimmy discussed getting to the flophouse with me I am not sure I recall. My belief is that Jimmy did what he was told, unquestioningly.

I'm not by any means sure that Ray "tinkered with" hypnosis. That bit is not new with McMillan. The shrink is Dr. Mark Freeman. Objective, I think, self-improvement. From what is known this is tenuous enough to avoid a chapter (of conjectures?)....I have neither a book nor a contract for one. Except for what I have developed I've done no writing since we talked about this in 4/75. I will write one, though. Thanks and best,

Dear Harold

Well, my book has been rejected by a second publisher, Simon & Schuster. Also, my agent and I had differences of opinion about the proper market, so I am now in between agents. I heard New York literary agents could be brutally arrogant, but I believe Ms Ellen Levine of Curtis Brown Ltd, must be the most arrogant of the lot. If I treated my clients the way she treats ~~me~~ ^{her clients,} I wouldn't have any. Come to think of it, I haven't many right now, but I can assure you that the reason is not that I treat them badly.

There's an Australian agent by the name of Gordon Wallace who is supposed to get my manuscript within the week. He sold the book "Those Wild Kennedy Boys" by a New York Post writer, Steve Dunleavy. He has expressed interest in it. ~~and~~ ^{He} believe^s that the hard-back market is the way to go. Please keep this under your hat, because he hasn't even seen the manuscript. He feels there is room for one more King book this season despite Mark Lane's book.

You remember the Saturday afternoon I called you and discussed the report ~~about~~ Lt. Charlie Sapp and his informer, Bill Sommerset? That news item did not appear in the next morning's CA, or Monday's CA or P-S. It hasn't appeared in subsequent issues as far as I know but I ~~did~~ did not check closely the later issues. I also went through the NY Times and Washington Post from Friday through Wednesday including the ~~main~~ ^{main} Sunday editions and I did not find the ~~news~~ news item in either papers. Was CBS the only news source?

Well, I hope my letter helped you concerning the Cesar rumors. I have kept them under my hat, and you are the only one I have discussed them with. I haven't seen Bob Livingston for some time, although I talked to him by phone today. His son committed suicide. I sent him a condolence letter last week. I called him today to see how he is doing. He sounded steady on the phone, but I believe he is still broken up over it. I haven't any details except what the papers reported. He shot himself to death

in the house of a woman whom I once sued. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
 and rents them out
 She owns a group of rent houses to the shadiest ~~of~~ wino type residents.
 Why Bob's son had a room there was beyond my imagination. He was a
 straight A student who dropped out of MSU for a semester. I can assure
 you that living in ^g one of the houses owned by this woman was not
 an environment conducive to salubrious living. He must have been subjected
 to pressures from junkies, winos, homosexuals, etc... The woman who owns
 them has a background you wouldn't believe. She was once arrested for
 receiving stolen property (property stolen by some of her wino clients)
 but she had enough pull in the police department or the DA's office
 to elude indictment. I know the ~~her~~ lawyers who represent her. In fact
 her lawyer is a very respectable attorney, who was shocked ~~beyond~~ beyond
 believe when I told him some of the things I expected to prove in court.
 (and I would have proved)
 We settled the case ~~out~~ out of court. I represented a client who was
 suing her for misrepresentation, ~~and~~ extortion, and fraud. I feel I won
 the case because I got a lien against my client's home extinguished
 while excusing an alleged debt of \$3,500 supposedly owed by my client
 to the woman.

I guess you have read the report of the Louisville cop. What do
 you think? Both the CA and P-S reported this incident.

Also, what do you think about the Cohen ~~article~~ article in
 New Times? I think it is a lot of shit. Cohen called me on New Year's
 Eve and asked me a lot of questions concerning Jerry, Stoner, ^{etc.} and I
 told him for the first time about Huie's testimony before the Shelby
 County Grand Jury. Thus, Cohen made ~~the~~ wild leap that Jerry was Raoul
 Raoul, ~~the fact that he had told the CA~~ because Huie had told the CA
 the morning before that he was going to name the real identity of
 and the fact Huie told the grand jury he believed
 Raoul, ~~the fact that he had told the CA~~ Jerry knew about Ray's alleged
 intention to ~~kill~~ kill King, and was some sort of accessory.

~~But~~ I warned Cohen to beware of Huie's so-called deductive
 powers, because Jerry had an alibi the FBI could not break: namely, he

was in Chicago on the day King was killed. I told him what Bob Jensen told me: namely, that the FBI did try to pin a co-conspirator rap on Jerry but they could not break his alibi. In a rare moment of candor, Bob Jensen told me he ran ~~into~~^{into} Jerry Ray at the Tennessee State Prison in 1969 after Ray's guilty plea. Bob told me he told Jerry: "You ought to thank your lucky stars that you aren't in there with him Jerry. Because if I had my way, you would be."

Thus, there was no FBI coverup if Jerry was Raoul. The FBI would have delighted in adopting a conspiracy scenario, if they could have laid out a neat KKK, right wing ^{white} racist plot. Hoover would have proved he wasn't soft on civil rights, especially on the killers of his arch-nemesis, and again, have proved to the nation he was the invincible number one law enforcer, impartially prosecuting right wing as well as left wing agitators.

What is your reaction? You know Jerry better than anyone else. I talked to him in your presence at the Albert Pick. Also, I talked to him about ^t 30 minutes in the witness room at the evidentiary hearing when we were both cooped up there ~~so~~ after I was served with a subpoena from Haile.

Why would Ray protect the brother who betrayed him? Why would Jerry betray and set up his own brother as patsy?

Last, what did you think of Dan Rafter's interview?

As I point out in my book, Ray denied renting the room.

1) Ray first denied renting the room to William Bradford Huie in his correspondence to Huie. He said Raoul came by the Rebel motel the night before and said he had found a place on the waterfront. He gave Ray the address and told him he was going to rent it in Ray's name. Ray said "no." Instead, he told him to use the name "Willard," an alias he had used back in Chicago. Ray also pointed out how he got lost looking for the room the next day.

2) Ray denied renting the room when I interviewed him in
May 1974.

Rather edited the film rather badly. Rather, not Ray, said Ray
rented the room. I am curious if Rather even asked the question.
I could have thought of a 100 ~~other~~ ^{other} questions to have asked him.

I know you are as contemptuous as I am of McMillan and all
of what his ilk stands for. But do you think it is possible that
he might have come up with something significant about Ray's tinkering
with hypnosis? McMillan claimed he talked to a West Coast psychologist
who said he hypnotized Ray and expressed the positive belief that Ray
had been hypnotized on many past occasions ~~but~~ because of the rapidity
with which Ray went under. Could Ray, like Sirhan, have conditioned
himself to become susceptible to both hypnosis by others as well as
self-hypnosis?

I may add a chapter on the above subject matter. My book was
running 450 pages and decided to leave out the hypnosis angle.

Do you have a book on the Ray case coming out soon?

Well, let's keep in touch

your friend, Wayne

Wayne