

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
5/1/89

Ms. Michele Fagan, Curator
Mississippi Valley Collection
Memphis State University
Memphis, TN 38152

Dear Ms. Fagan,

Thank you very much for your letter of 4/14 and the valuable enclosures.

I did intend for you to include my letter in those records that would be searched by researchers and thank you for doing it.

By a copy of your letter and mine I'll inform the Hood College librarian, Charles Kurth, and Dr. Gerald McKnight, head of the history department that I have your listing of the Charles F. Holmes papers and your monograph on the sanitation workers strike.

If they so desire, I will give these to them now.

I was unable to determine from the listing of your holdings whether they include something that has interested me, a list of all the AFSCME employees who went to Memphis to assist in the strike and negotiations.

I am interested in learning the name of a man who worked for the international and was brought in then from North or South Carolina.

If you can provide this information I would appreciate it.

You refer to Mr. Holmes' correct statement, that everyone was concerned with security after Ruby shot Oswald. The conditions of Ray's confinement became an issue in his evidentiary hearing.

For those with an interest in that aspect it may be interesting for them to know that Ray's security was designed by the U.S. Department of Justice. Several records in the FBI's MURKIN records relate to this.

The Department prepared a handbook for the sheriff on security. I know that some pages of it are in the case record, perhaps all of it. In any event, the original should be in the sheriff's office. I think it would be a valuable addition to your collection. Copying ought not be a problem and it is a handbook on security.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg



The Mississippi Valley Collection

John Willard Brister Library

Memphis State University - Memphis, Tennessee 38152

4-14-89

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD
21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg;

Thank you so much for your very informative letter. I'm very glad that you have been able to gather together all the government material that you have and that you are making it so accessible. If you do not mind, I will put your letter with our department's inventory of Sanitation Strike papers.

You asked what material the MVC has on Dr. King's assassination and so I am sending you two finding aids to two pertinent collections. The largest is for the Sanitation Workers' Strike collection, which was described in the Commercial Appeal article, and the other is for the papers of Charles Holmes. Mr. Holmes is the director of university/community relations here at Memphis State, but at the time of the James Earl Ray trial he acted as the press liaison for the Shelby County Sheriff's Department. When he donated this file, Mr. Holmes told me that this and the Sirhan Sirhan trial in California were the next trials of assassins after Ruby shot Oswald and that everyone was extremely concerned with security. He also said that the Ray trial set some precedents in this respect.

Sincerely,

Michele Fagan

Michele Fagan,
Curator

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
4/10/89

Ms. Michele Fagan, curator
Mississippi Valley Collection
Memphis State University
Memphis, TN

Dear Ms. Fagan,

The Commercial-Appeal's story on the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination prompts this letter.

If any of those using your collection are interested in the assassination itself and related federal government files, I've gotten about 60,000 pages of them and they are now and will in the future be freely available. I write this so that you can have record and can inform them.

What I have will be at local Hood College when I am no longer able to be helpful with them. (I was just 76.) The records then will be at the library.

They include the FBI's MURKIN and related files of headquarters and seven field office, including Memphis. They also include the headquarters and Memphis office records on the sanitation strike and the Invaders, and some relevant Department of Justice records, but compliance with the Freedom of Information Act by the Department was far from complete.

The transcripts of the Ray evidentiary hearing before Judge McRae in Memphis also ^{are} included, along with all of my work on that case, and my work on the assassination.

Dr. Gerald McKnight, head of Hood's history department, has written two articles for the South Atlantic Quarterly on the strike and on the Invaders. I presume your library has them. He is also getting from the FBI its records on the Poor People's campaign.

All the government records have been preserved exactly as disclosed and I am confident this will continue to be the case. They are in bound volumes.

The FBI indexed the fraction of its records it made available to the Memphis prosecution, I also have that incomplete index.

There was an internal investigation of how the FBI treated Dr. King and his family and associates. I have pretty much of them, too.

If your collection includes any information on the assassination I would appreciate knowing what it is and whether it is available.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg