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March 9, 1977

Mr. George McMillan
12 Hilliard Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Mr. McMillan:

During our phone conversation on March 7, 1977, I challenged you to debate Dr. King's assassination and James Earl Ray's alleged guilt wither either me or Harold Weisberg.

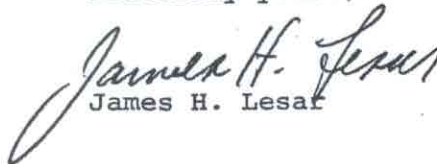
I repeat the challenge. By "debate" I do not mean a formal debate, although I would not object to that, but simply any occasion on which differing views may be presented.

During our conversation you refused the challenge on the spurious grounds that the debate would not be "rational". As you well know, this is a coward's cop-out. The truth is you are just plain scared.

I have known for a long time that you were afraid. It became particularly transparent at the time of James Earl Ray's evidentiary hearing, when you ran away from a seat in Judge McRae's courtroom to avoid being subpoenaed. In this you followed in the quaking footsteps of Foreman, Huie, and Frank, who also ran away.

However difficult it may be for a professional poltroon, I hope you can at least screw up enough courage to show this letter to those who interview you or publish your articles. Or to your lecture bureau, if you have one. It is, after all, terribly unfair to deceive such people into wrongly concluding that you know what you are talking about and that your work can withstand critical scrutiny.

Sincerely yours,


James H. Lesar