

Dear Jerry,

8/8/76

The lead item in the Bookmakers column in the today's Washington Post book section is headed "Making a Killing." Here is what it says:

JAMES EARL RAY'S family was interviewed by George McMillan for The Making of an Assassin (Little, Brown; October), but they all demanded money before they would talk. Brother Jerry got the most, \$2,100, as well as hotel expenses and meals. He was ^{not} terribly fond of the author, but he did have a good idea how to handle journalists. As he wrote in a letter to McMillan: "What surprised me even tho you are a liberal how i with a limited education could get a fee from you without telling you anything and making up all that Bull."

As you can see, George and his publisher look at what you thought was smart and cute other than you did and do. They are not at all embarrassed. George knew what he was doing. You thought you were playing him. He played you for what he wanted and he got what he wanted.

I told you all long ago he was after a mid-west Tobacco Road book.

He wanted material to ridicule all of you with, to make you out Nazis, crooked, money-crazy and silly. Most people will regard this little bit of promotion as not unfavorable to George and as very unfavorable to you and your family.

It will come out in the book as all that George had to put up with from you characters in his diligent search for the truth and how in spite of yourselves you were of some help in this. What you did to him he understood. Mark my words and see if he does not use this as a means of painting a picture of you - "the kind of picture he wants. He'll be a fool not to lambaste the hell out of you with each of the tricks you thought you were pulling on him.

It was all so unnecessary. The simplest and the wisest thing would have been to tell him to go to hell, what I told John to tell him. But not, you are this real bright guy who knows it all and is smarter than any reporter.

It is already too late, but please try to learn before you do even more harm. I'm telling you the truth when I tell you again that you are side-show material to them, no matter how nicely they may speak to you.

Did you ever make it with a woman by telling her how ugly and nasty she was?

Sincerely,

bec: the title indicates that Little, Brown has decided not to worry about libel. However, there is malice because of the record made in the evidentiary hearing.