

Conversations with Wayne Chastain 3/31,4/1/76, Holiday Inn, 24 N. Third St., Memphis, from intermittent taping

Rumors of Teamster involvement in King assassination: "I vaguely remember there was some kind of competition in organizing" but "not here in Memphis."

"I know this. In '72, '73, there was a lot of competition - who was going to organize the firemen, who was going to organize the policemen.

State AG Ashley was having lunch with someone when he heard of "es Payne's second story, about Reditt being removed from surveillance of King and the Lorraine: "He said he always suspected that Holloman was involved ...conspiracy...I ought to tell you what his concept of the conspiracy was: 1) that Ray did it; 2) that Jerry was involved and JB Stoner was behind it. He also felt the FBI and Hoover were involved in the plot. ...I haven't told you what Haile said. (The lunch was after Haile had been fired) He also believe that Jerry was involved... and Stoner...Ashley goes farthur...Haile worked too closely with Canale and the FBI...there was no Attorney General (for a period); he was working on his own, so who was giving him directions? Had to be the FBI." (Pack had resigned to run for governor. "One from then to evid. hrg.) "Ashely did not think that the State of Tenn. could have put on such a strong case."

Renfro working regularly for an attorney, Bob DildST (phon)"over in mississippi, right across the State line. "He has a tri-state practise and" keeps "enfro busy. "Not criminal - personal injury. He handles DWIs and minor stuff like that. Renfro does all his investigative work. "

"I always thought it was strange that he (Ray) knew the procedures for getting a driver's license in Louisiana. ...told them (Alabama) his last driver's license was in Louisiana. (Louisiana) don't keep records after two years. And he knew that."

Bob Farley/Folley/Fawley: thinks did not run for legislature again after '68.

John "Buddy" Dwyer was assistant chief of police, could have been chief. One of Boss Crump's boys. "He was also very close to Claude Armour... (over both fire and police)...Governor Buford Ellington gave him a job, Director of Public Safety. He moved to Nashville. ...Claude/ Armour, from Nashville, probably had more control over the Memphis Police Department than Frank Holloman....Holloman just took office as Director...Armour, he controlled everything. Under him was his man McDonald.... McDonald stayed chief of police...took his orders from Armour. ...Henry Lux was assistant chief of police. ...McDonald retired in late '68, after King was killed. ... (McDonald) also a good Crump man, also a good Claude Armour man. ...I've been told.. ...Chris Hagan ...talked to Mrs. Battle ...She said that Battle had gotten calls from Nashville from none other than Buford (Ellington)...She didn't mention Clause Armour's name... (probably Armour's) the supposed fear that Memphis would be torn apart.) "He (Battle) had dirty pictures. (In his office.) & Porno."

"Hagan told me that he talked to the clerk (6th circuit) and the clerk said the judges didn't like Lesar. And if Jim argued it that he'd lose." (Wayne repeated this.) This was before oral arguments. "Hagan said that Lesar'd made phone calls to them."

"He was in trouble with the FBI because of a story he wrote...for a little tabloid." Hagan "also works for several legislators. ...Ironically he worked on the same newspaper I worked on in Texas, San Antonio Light (later)"

"Mrs. Battle didn't want to talk to him. He said 'If you don't I'm going to put out a press release...about those dirty pictures...he might have made it up.... Intimidated her, I guess."

Pierrotti died 21, 22 December. Pierrotti also former assistant attorney general, Memphis. Wayne says body found 4:30-5:00 o'clock.

The sanitation strike was almost settled. Jeri Blanchard, former city councilman source. Ministers and sanitation workers had a majority willing to negotiate with union and strike had been won. "Somebody jumped the gun and they brought up a resolution asking Henry Loeb to" negotiate. This forced Loeb's hand and changed the council to where

Jeri Blanchard was the only white voting with three blacks. Two blacks only. So they had to start all over again to put the whole thing back together.

The council then decided that while it could it would rather not act so it went in and asked Loeb to negotiate.

The ministers and other in key negotiating positions knew that for all practical purposes the strike had been settled. Lawson was telling people to cool it, for all practical purposes we have it won. But they had to give Loeb an opportunity to save face. They had a council majority.

This is when the radicals said burn the town, kill the son-of-a-betch Loeb. This sabotaged the whole thing. Even Maxine Smith of the NAACP didn't want King to come in. She feared it make Loeb irreversible.

This is like the working of the old-time professional labor-spy outfits, a pattern then known as "heating up the job." When everything was going well these outfits kept themselves employed by creating violence when there was no need or purpose in any and when it prevented the settlement that would cost them the contract.