

Dear Phil,

5/2/78

This is to amplify or explain my interest in the observance oratory and to cue you and Wayne in on the realities about Gracie.

While I have no doubt that Gracie was put away quietly and without public or really due process to keep her unavailable (from press to defense counsel), there was no need to keep her salted after the guilty plea.

Wayne may remember that during the evidentiary hearing, when it was impossible for me to take the time, he obtained some of the court records and I gave them to Jim, who put them into the hearing record.

There came a time when I wanted the story out. I therefore gave it to Paul ~~Wix~~ Valentine of the WxPost. Paul is a good person and a good reporter. He went down to Tenn., looked and asked and in about 1973 printed a story stating that the only reason Gracie was and had been in the mental hospital is that there was no practical alternative. As I recall it this meant that she could not care for herself and there was nobody who was willing to or had any obligation to. She simply isn't all there. Would she have been living with Charlie otherwise?

Lane, who is aptly described by another as a ~~walking~~ ^{walking} encyclopaedia or misinformation, knowing nothing about the case and not being willing to take the time to learn, saw Gracie as exploitable. So, he exploited, unconcerned about fact or anything else.

For whatever it is worth to you, and for my own reasons I will not expand on it now, the account of what Gracie can say is spurious. Only a Lane would believe it and he does because he wants to. He knows she is not competent to testify anyway.

Also for your and Wayne's information, except for the quote of Lane, which I have seen in the same words elsewhere, the story on the plight of Jerry Ray is accurate. It also is typically incomplete, as anything connected with Lane is. In fact, Lane is his own kind of incompleteness as a person.

What is omitted is that aside from his initial responsibility for the committee and then its direction, he is directly responsible for Jerry's being before the committee without counsel. He told Jerry that they'd have to throw him in jail before he would stop fighting for Jerry's constitutional right to be represented by counsel of his own choosing, namely mark. Instead of getting Jerry other counsel when the committee notified both (at three-page length) that its rules precluded one lawyer representing two witnesses), Lane looked to the promotional benefits to his paperback then in need of some attention to sell it. So Lane went through the motions, made a fine speech to the press and fled. In this case he fled to Atlanta and a previously-scheduled promo.

I don't know if Jerry has obtained replacement counsel or how he'll pay a decent lawyer, one who knows something about Congressional practise. I think he is now scheduled to testify - in secret of course - on the 11th. (When Jerry realized he was in the soup he asked the committee to appoint Jim Cesar to rep him and if they would not do that to appoint me. He even called me "The Honorable." The response was that Jim already repped Brother John and that I'm not a lawyer.)

Maybe John is due on the 11th. They are having both plus Carol Pepper at about that time.

On Reddit Lane began with two ripoffs and then added his own unique genius, which always means slander or libel and error. As you know the name is actually pronounced "Reddick," which is the way I used it in my book, otherwise with complete accuracy. I knew more but feared the consequences of publication of it. I made several efforts to talk to Redditt when he was working for Kuykendal. He refused. I figured this was because I am white so when I asked Les Payne to carry some of my work forward in return for the stories he would get I turned this over to him. Redditt added not what Lane made up out of nothing and Redditt then appears to have gone for. What Redditt told Les that may be the truth is that he had also recommended a simple perimeter protection. Not to stop any assassin but to prevent any escape. There were threats against Redditt. I know of some before the killing and some coinciding with it. The blacks were angry over what he was known to be doing, which is simply spying.

Now about those brave black preachers not from Memphis (and one or two from there) and their public breast-beating, there is much I could say about most of them. Not all and not Lawson.

Before I went to Memphis for the first time I wrote Kyle three times without getting even an acknowledgement from him. Here I was, a honky wanting to talk to blacks who had no reason to trust outsiders, not knowing the town and with no way of getting around in it. He would have nothing to do with any effort to learn anything about the assassination other than the official account.

Then there is Jesse Jackson. I bought copies of my own book for the black caucus and personally delivered them. Jackson saw them, took two copies without paying for them, and two members of the black caucus did not get a copy.

I made a number of efforts to get in touch with Jackson and never got a callback. I also made a number of efforts through a black friend, then a TV producer/director. He also got no response.

Now that Hoover is safely dead and there was the certainty of some good personal publicity out of it Jackson found voice. Irresponsibly.

Same with Abernathy. I tried him through his agent, a friend of mine, besides writing him and trying through a number of SCIC people, including in Atlanta.

Coretta, through Harry Wachtel as well as directly. Silence there, too.

I could go on and on.

So one of my interests is a file for history: "Their Brother's Keepers."

Then there is always the problem of chickens and roosting when they home.

Thanks and best to you all,