

Dear Phil,

7/9/76

Thanks for your explanations. Let me correct a basic error and suggest how you can help the ultimate establishing of truth.

Why Ray filed the civil suit pro se I do not know. He does have other counsel. I do not know the names. One is supposed to be of national fame. One is a prominent right-winger of some means in Nashville. Ryan is co-counsel. Perhaps at Ray's request he has been less than fully forthright, which does surprise me. It was my understanding that new civil counsel were to have filed that suit. Perhaps they could not stomach what Ray may have insisted on. But I have a good source that tells me more is to come. It is overdue now so there may be a hitch or it may come at any time.

When Ryan claims not to know the name of new counsel in Nashville it simply isn't true. I plan to do nothing publicly about any new counsel or the other and quite sordid matters of which I know. This whole thing has become a pretty nasty matter and it is steadily getting worse in terms of what I am learning. I am not going to interfere with the workings of the system thus am silent. I tell you quite frankly I'm sitting on several of what could make major stories and not in this case alone. It is not because attention does not make the sale of books possible.

There has been ghastly unprofessionalism I will not specify now and am not saying is Memphis unprofessionalism or isn't. I think it will out. I will do it voluntarily. I can be forced to. I have not do all this work without pay and at some cost just to have a couple of hams and other self-seekers abort any possibility of the workings of justice. If I feel I must not be more specific now I also feel it is fair to say that regardless of the Memphis situation on which I will say nothing there is what I believe to be multiple unprofessionalism outside of Memphis. With the most serious consequences.

I have written Ryan and Bob without reply, not a threat to Ryan but a definite one to Bob. I've told him to shut up and stay shut up or else. And I mean the or else and he knows damned well I'm in a position to give it meaning. I want no stinks that can be avoided and I am not vengeful. (I'd be a liar if I did not admit I'd welcome the unlikely, Foreman's disbarment.) But the kindest thing I can say for Bob's behavior at least from the time an evidentiary hearing was ordered is that he is crazy. It really has been that bad. We have extensive correspondence on it and what he has done.

Ryan is not the same kind of case. I can believe that from his political beliefs and a genuine interest in helping Ryan he had done more than once what I believe he will in time look back on and agree he should not have done.

You can help if you keep me informed of anything you hear because what may have no meaning to you can be significant to me. This includes learning from Ryan who the Nashville counsel is. Ryan is lying because that lawyer has required it. If you find out and can give me a rundown that will help. My only interest is in learning about him and in being prepared for anything that may happen. If Ryan is pushed I think he'll talk. He may not realize it but it is very much in his interest if he is going to be left out of whatever may in the end be compelled. I have no interest in hurting him. He has hurt himself. If nothing happens to him. (And I have no interest in initiating anything.)

I do not really know what is public. As of yesterday the 6th circuit had not relieved Messer. He had asked it and been refused. I have not seen his response. We did discuss it last week. And other letters. I think his feet are firmly on the ground and his head is screwed on exactly right. So there never has been a time that Ray has not had criminal counsel, regardless of what the general misconception is. In confidence, as all of this is, others I will not name have been working around in the back. And now are. If you want you can tell Kay and Wayne in confidence...you are right. I want no more connection of any kind with Bob or PNS. Again thanks,

PO Box 4803
Memphis TN 38104

Sat July 3/76

Dear Harold

I got your notes of June 15 & 29 today.

I'm GLAD I used the pen name Peter Morse. Just as I was an unknown quantity to PNS, so were they to me. They changed-up much of my story. Much of it was a pick-up from Chastain's last material for them. They called Ryan a "new" attorney. Further, I don't know that I can place any future stuff with them if I wanted to (also, payment is slight). For example, they ^{told me they} wouldn't use Weisberg alone saying Ray is political prisoner. I might get some quotes out of Livingston, but you might not like ~~them~~ being coupled with ~~it~~ him in a story.

If you can make out paragraph 7 of June 12 CA photocopy I sent you, you'll note Ryan DELIVERED the suit for Ray, but said he does not ~~represent~~ represent Ray in the case. I think I have the answer ~~is~~ on the "Nashville attorney"; Ryan was very coy about who he might be. He's James Earl Ray (pro se).

James sent me a brief, non-committal reply on basic questions of his legal team. I wrote again, asking whether HE ~~was~~ considered himself a political prisoner. No reply.

Keep in touch--as I will.

Best,

Phil