

Mr. Jerry Ray
Box 145
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9/8/76

Dear Jerry,

Gotta leave for Washington about 6:30. Have a case in court today. Got up earlier to send you a caution. If you tell Jimmy, who still thinks he is Perry Mason, it will probably do no good. But as I've been telling you all along, you don't want to go down in history as Jimmy's Judas.

The combination of commercializers of whom I've been hearing for a while has taken more shape. All of them are bad guys. They are off on a commercialization of the King assassination that requires a conspiracy, Jimmy to be part of it and thus guilty of murder first, and depending on the formulation with which they wind up, you and Stoner in on it. These are smooth gyps, real, professional con men. They'll never say what they want or mean, they sneak around and they know sneaking.

You can gather for yourself what they are really up to when they have not been in touch with in or me. All except one knows us both. They are real scavengers. One of them ran a campaign against Jim the night before the ~~arriving~~ sixth circuit. He did everything he could to throw in off balance. Livingston took him to Cinn. Another I met through Bud, the one I told Jim to warn Jimmy about, Freed. He is a wretched man in all ways. The reports that reach me are that he is a psychopath. I know he is a tricky one from the few dealings ~~we've~~ we've had. Another associate of Bud's is involved, Mark Lane. As big a crook as you ever saw. Sick in the head, bright and unscrupulous.

Regardless of how they come across to you or to Jimmy if they have kept in touch with him (he promised to send Jim Freed's letters but didn't) I know them and they are up to know good. They have had two recent conferences with a guy in the Department of Justice in recent days. These are guys who as investigators could not find women in a whore house. I'm familiar with their work and writing and they'd do and say anything to sell a book or get attention. One of the ways they con people is to talk like real red radicals, wear beards, etc. One of them is one who tried to con Stoner by phone. Several of them almost conned the Tennessean into running a big Sunday story on the conspiracy in which you and Stoner were behind Jimmy. Two have been trying to sell far-out stories. They are now reduced to the underground papers, smallest. They are also going around stealing bits and pieces of my work where they can.

Jimmy will wind up with them as he did with Foreman, only deeper in by now. Other reports are that they are working with the most pro-government of the black members of Congress. One I know is really yellow. Years ago I tried to interest him in the case and he never called back. Many tries because he had been close to King. If you were here you could see my files on this strange gang of finks, worse than those you call pointy-headed liberals, men without principle and who sell what appears to be principle. They are part of the gang that just saw to it that Congress would do nothing about the JFK assassination. Now they are trying to get one for this year when it can't happen so they can promote themselves by it and raise money, etc. Lane has just signed with a lecture bureau to speak on the King assassination. He and Bud are partners in something called the CCI. Because they know nothing and will say anything, they'll see it to it that if and when the time comes that Congress may do something the FBI and CIA will kill it by knocking down all the crazy things they say. They follow and tape these characters, who work for them better than if the agencies paid them. In fact, Lane and Freed did a book that was made into a movie that Lane stole from some French Intelligence bullshit cooked up to wreck Jim Garrison. I'm sure the CIA was behind it. I've been tushing because you should know and I have to leave. If you have any questions, ask. If these guys approach you don't say a word. Don't bullshit as you did with ^{the} Gillan. They'll use it and you'll be able to do nothing. Harold

Abby Mann, from Jerry Ray's tape received 10/3/76 AM America, Chicago station, probably a week ago.

Intro says he has done "a great deal of original research during the past year" into King assassination. Appears to say he will be first witness before new committee. Asked what is the most important single piece of evidence that "you gave the Congressman that decided them to change their minds."

He talks about "the most shocking thing that I found," then boasts of creating Kojak and says "but it didn't take a Kojak to do this." He appears to have declined to identify his most important evidence.

Whatever it was he checked it out with Mark Lane because of his respect for him as an investigator. Then says he talked to "the Attorney General of Alabama." Claims "Some of it had been public knowledge for years but nobody had put it together."

Says "black policemen that some people felt they would not have the guts to come forward."

Talk about city employees that day not clear enough to make out.

"What did those people have to do with Dr. Martin Luther King the first day?"

"Well, they had a great deal to do." Followed by a long political irrelevance about the changes in the south. Never says what. Then asked about "During your investigation, all your research work, who do you think really killed Dr. King?"

He "can't talk about it" but "I have no definitive idea."

When woman questioner says "You talk about an FBI agent, a former FBU agent that you (her emphasis) uncovered--" He interrupts to say "Yes." He says no more except "that when the very same people who tapped King conducted the investigation, 'How much of an investigation could that have been?'"

Says he spoke to Ray's ex-attorney, i.e. Livingston.

The only thing comprehensible is that Ray could not get out of Memphis, which seems not to be what anyone would say.

Says he "really can't" say what Livingston told him. It is not AM America, it is I think Good Morning America.

Less about the assassination I can't imagine.