

201- 569-5600

Dear Harold:

Herewith the copy as promised..... it's in rough shape, so don't worry about semantics.....but grateful for the check on the facts.....

I also want to make it as strong as possible, so I'm hoping you won't insist on the 'I believe' over his fear of being murdered in jail. In fact, looking back over your book after you mentioned it on the telephone, you come out much harder than just 'believing' in it....

Another point....I wanted to use the bit about the bundle being planted before the killing, although I see in my notes if twas off the record..... you off course have the okay on what goes in, but grateful again if you can let this stick... it's phrased, I think to keep away any trouble over it.....

great meeting you the other day, and look forward to hearing from you soon.....

bestest,

Bill

Dick

Harold Weisberg
Route 8,
FREDERICK,
MARYLAND

Blurb: Weisberg.

OSS
W. J. Rafter

A former Senate investigator, Harold Weisberg is the author of the recently published book "Frame-Up: The Martin Luther King/James Earl Ray Case". It is the result of two years investigation into the assassination of King, and it concludes ~~that Ray is innocent.~~ ^{Ray the alleged killer, was innocent despite pleading guilty to} the crime.

Here, exclusively for ENQUIRER readers, Weisberg tells why Ray was forced into his recent attempt to break prison - and why Ray is appealing for a new trial.

endsit blurb.

Dick

James Earl Ray...1.

By Harold Weisberg

Fear that he ~~will~~^{will} be permanently silenced by the real
killers of black civil rights leader Martin Luther King caused

James Earl Ray to make his abortive prison break on May 3.

Ray, being pressured into
despite/pleading guilty to the murder of King and

being sentenced to 99 years in jail, did not do the shooting.

From my exhaustive investigations, I am certain that there
was a conspiracy to kill King, but that Ray was only a decoy.

No evidence ~~exists~~ exists which could have
convicted Ray of the crime. But in the haste to gain a conviction,
our law enforcement agencies chose to ~~ignore~~ ignore this.

Ray now wants to prove his innocence. But ~~he knows that~~
he can do this only by living to go to court again.

alone
could
have

a technical
charge of
1st degree
murder
in the
1st degree

Supper?

8/

2.

He is appealing for a new trial - his most recent appeal was turned down - ^{but} ~~and~~ he knows he faces a long period in jail before he will be ^{successful.} ~~granted a new trial.~~

in any meaningful way

He has never, ever, talked about whom ~~he~~ he was associated with in Memphis on April 4, 1968, the day King was shot. It is very possible that he will never name them ~~x~~ - it would not be necessary to do so ~~in~~ in showing his innocence in any new trial.

must a should have

But he has a very real fear that these people, who did kill King, ~~want~~ want him silenced.

once he heard King was killed

It is a fear he has had ever since he was arrested, a fear underlined [?] by threats on his life, and the knowledge that violence in jail is a way of life.

Although I know of no acts of violence against Ray in the Brushy Mountain State ^{from which he tried to escape,} Prison in Tennessee // I know the possibility of his being murdered is ^{who he has with} constantly on his mind. Murders in jail are not uncommon. They can easily be arranged.

This knowledge, ^{is one of the decisive} ~~combined with the long period he must~~ ^{spend in jail awaiting a new trial} ~~spend in jail awaiting a new trial~~ ^{Factors in his attempted jail break} ~~spend in jail awaiting a new trial~~

Ray ...3.

A proven expert in hiding out, Ray undoubtedly felt he would
outside prison walls to
have been safer ~~and~~ conducting his fight to prove his innocence.

5/ My own ~~m~~ efforts to find out the truth in the killing
have
of King ~~was~~ involved a two year on-and-off legal battle
with Memphis court authorities, the U.S. Attorney General's
office, and even Ray's ^{first} ~~own~~ lawyers.

Although all I was seeking were matters of public
record, I have been continually lied to by these people -
including top federal officials denying the existence of documents
which they ^{initially} later have been forced to produce through ~~my~~ legal
action.

As well as obtaining these documents, I have personally
interviewed or caused to be interviewed, witnesses in Memphis,
New Orleans, ^{Los Angeles} California, and London, England.

My conclusions in analysing all this information are
that James Earl Ray was framed, not only by his associates, but
by our own law enforcement agencies in being convicted of King's
murder.

as a matter of law the crime of it is unsolved

See on
book?

not
actual
murder

Ray...4.

Although he was in Memphis at the time of the killing, and undoubtedly engaged in some kind of criminal activity, there is no evidence that this activity involved the killing of King.

No → heavy pressure

On March 10, 1969, when Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of King, it was on the ill-advice of his lawyers that it was the only way to escape the electric chair.

Had he pleaded not guilty, there is no way the prosecution could have proven he killed King.

"Wiped a plea"

12 days not seen of man who committed

No one can identify Ray as being in

the rooming house from where the assassin's shot is alleged to

have been fired. Neither the rooming house manager, Mrs. Bessie

Brewer, nor Charles Stephens, a lodger, two 'witnesses' who are claimed to have seen the man who killed King, can positively identify

that man as Ray. Mrs Brewer said she couldn't

Ray's fingerprints were found only on easily movable objects, such as beer cans and a pair of binoculars. They were never found in the room he was alleged to have rented nor

Ray...5.

2

5/ The rifle that Ray ^{supposedly} ~~allegedly~~ used to kill King ^{allegedly} - ~~found~~ in a shop doorway ~~after the killing - was planted in the doorway minutes ~~ago~~ before King was killed.~~ I have spoken to people who could have ¹ testified to this.

in due No ballistics evidence could be produced to tie in this rifle with the bullet which killed King.

The prosecution knew all this when they accepted ^{negotiated} a plea of guilty from Ray. ^{with Percy Foreman while Ray was opposed to it.}

But Ray, an escaped convict whom they could undoubtedly prove was in the Memphis area - although not in the rooming house - at the time of the killing, was a perfect ^{the law enforcement agencies} patsy for ~~them~~ ^{arrest}. His plea of guilty, brought through fear of ^{killing} legal execution, wrapped up the King killing case without delving into the possibility of conspiracy.

There is no doubt in my mind that Ray was set up as a decoy by the people who really committed the crime. ~~That~~ 'Evidence' was planted to implicate him.

And it suited the ~~same~~ purposes of our justice to accept that evidence without question.

1115

Ray 6..

Now Ray has to fight a judicial system which framed
him, while *his continued leaving can be a danger* knowing that his life is at all times threatened
to by the real killers of Martin Luther King.

endsit.

Bottom 4-missing copu.

the furniture in it he is alleged to have moved nor even in or on that white

Mustang he is said to have used in ~~his escape~~ a desparate, 4-00-mile dash accross the heart of the south to Atlanta in escaping.

top 5; after dash was not and cannot be connected with the shooting. This entire aspect is so questionable I now have proof in my possession that the official picture of it as found is not, in fact, authentic and was later staged by the police.