

ZODIAC NEWS SERVICE

November 24th, 1974

Dear Harold:

When I sent that stuff to you two days ago, I accidentally left out the story we did on Wecht's latest article. I'm enclosing it in this letter.

Also, I have one question I've been meaning to ask you for months, but have continually forgotten to do so. There's no hurry on the answer, but, when you get the chance, I'd really appreciate a reply.

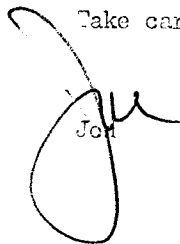
Here's the question. In your book Frame-Up, you reproduce that famous comparison between the First F.B.I. sketch of the King killer and one of the tramps in Dealey Plaza. What is the explanation for this striking similarity? Have you found who really produced that first sketch, and why it looks so much like that tramp?

Sprague gave me an involved explanation about that similarity, but, frankly, I've never been able to follow his story logically. (If I recall, he says the "F.B.I." photo was actually drawn in Mexico by a police artist who received ~~an eye-witness description~~ an eye-witness description of the killer, long-distance over the telephone from witnesses in Memphis. Sprague says the witnesses described the killer to the Mexican artist because Mexican police had been alerted that King's murderer might be headed that way. Does this make any sense to you? Is this what happened?)

I'd be most interested to have a brief recap of what you recall about the ~~xxxx~~ true history of what I think is a very bizarre similarity.

I'll send xeroxes of Wecht's article in the next few days. The machine (xerox) is ~~xxxx~~ locked up on weekends here, so I'll have to wait ~~xxxx~~ until early next week.

Take care,



John

950 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94103
(415) 956-3555

Dear Jon,

11/26/74

Honest answers to your 11/24/74 are ~~not~~ what make me seem to some as a cranky, egocentric and easily-irritated old bastard.

Both are bullshit as given to you. I'll have to be brief in answering because thanks to the effectiveness of your note on your story yesterday was mostly on the phone and while I do hope some of it is also converted into sales so we can pay the bank, I also have much deadline Ray work and then must return to other writing for which there now is even more purpose.

Let me give you the history on the sketch, but the truth, not the kind of self-serving stuff the Hinkles, Spragues and Turners write.

The sketch in Frame-Up is of Mexican origin but the rest is nonsense of origins I don't know but would like to if there is detail other than the Sprague foolishness. I can't give you the proof or the details of the rest because I must save it for the trial. This ~~is~~ is why for all the years I've had that proof I've neither used it nor mentioned it.

I'm not taking the time to check dates, but I would say toward the end of April 1968 Fred Newcomb, who had not yet gotten pissed off at me, sent me four prints of the sketch and the isolation from the "tramp" picture. I picked the mail up at the post office early that a.m. The local paper is across the street and the editor is a friend. I left a set with him to send to AP Baltimore, gave a set to my friendly local FBI agent, kept a set and perhaps gave the local paper a set. No, I remember, I had this left-over set and when on 4/30/68 Larry Bensky wired to ask me to serve on "A committee of inquiry into" the King assassination (I accepted by WU same day) I also asked him if he wanted these pictures. He did and I sent them 5/3/68. After this you may remember that Bill Turner took credit for the work and used them as his in your papers out there and in Ramparts. I have copies. My point is in giving you another look at the honesty of those whom have done no original work and berate those whose work they steal and misuse, Turner did misuse this work that was not mine but Fred's and they all lied about the source. I also used these pictures on TV in Minneapolis the middle of May, not knowing either the full story or the real origin of the sketch, only that the FBI had fallen short of disavowing.

I can pinpoint the origin of the original sketch. It is not in Mexico. That one is not the original. And I know the basis of the Mexican sketch, with proof, including photographic. Please say nothing about this but do be alert to any information, no matter how seemingly insignificant it may appear to be, because the full story to the degree I now have it amounts to a criminal conspiracy and I have proofs of the involvement of identified people. This may at some point also be the level for doing some shaking and prying, so there is other reason for being circumspect. If you ever have time for putting the Sprague or any other account on paper, there may be a time in the future when it could be of value.

On Wecht's "discovery," it also is false. I have this stuff in Post Mortem. I have had it for years. When I still trusted Bob Smith and when he and Cesar were still active in the CTIA I told them about it in explaining what I would do to follow up on the spectro suit. I think this dates to 1970. Smith merely duplicated this, as anyone can do. He has been rescued from unemployment and other problems by Wecht. The combination couldn't find public hair in an iver-extended whorehouse. There is meaning not indicated in your story they may or may not have seen in what I have and for years have had in this, the most definitive book of all. But the difference is suing is that public use was made of the spectro while it was pretended there had been no neutron activation testing. Under the American Mail v Gulick decision any use waives any right to withhold.

Again to keep the nuts, self-seekers and commercializers out of it; With the enactment of the new amendments to the law, when we can Cesar and I will be following our original work up. We have taken a couple of steps already, prior to this new Ray case need. So again I ask you to say nothing so that we not be impeded. It may help you to understand that Cyril has a malpractice business that can't ethically be advertised. So regardless of how hurtful what he says or does may be, and it has been terribly hurtful as I warned him in advance, it promotes his malpractice business. His office for it is in the Frick Bldg. I think 1317.

If these various people of means had half the principle they claim they'd have seen to it that funding was available for the contextual publication of the entire story, which to their knowledge is written. 1/3 was written as a basis for testimony Cyril gave but didn't understand on his own. He has read 2/3, when I trusted him. Have his letter of thanks. Best,