

Mr. Les Payne
Newsroom
Newsday
Garden City, N.Y. 11530

2/20/76

Dear Les,

If this doesn't reach you before you leave it will be a reminder for when you get here.

I'd been expected a chaotic day on a Playboy consultancy with terrible stories on which they had other problems. (They don't think that what I consider terrible is. They were also crazy, lying of all things about the Mafia and in defamatory ways. So I was able to make them see that Carlos Marcello could do much about distribution of Playboy and they cut 100% of that! Things like this were the easiest.)

They were to have gone to press today. I'm sure they are still struggling with galleys. In fact, as of last suppertime I was told the articles editor might fly here over the weekend with the galleys. So, I had to plan to keep myself free for interruptions and I planned no writing. They've been silent so I was able to do other things.

This included reading your excellent second piece and doing a little thinking. I was too tired from what I'd been doing and toxicophoric about your great performance and success in Memphis, too anxious to learn what you'd learned, to think then.

There is an entirely different version of the Redditt threat I picked up in 2/71 from Renfro ^{ays}. And was he indignant. Those ~~###~~ niggers, militants (his use of the word does not necessarily mean invaders) threatening that honest cop Redditt so that he had to rush home to protect his family from these threats.

Now who do you think could have either floated such a rumor or fed it to ^{ays}, who was ^{anes'} closest thing to an investigator?

Reading your piece reminded me that my friend who was then in Memphis as a photographer had other notes I did not initially take. He then, before I could get back to New Orleans, decided to take his family on a two-year trip to Africa in his 32-foot boat. He returned and I have some California addresses a couple of years old. It has been too long to recall with accuracy whether what I got and will let you have is just a handful off the top or a selection. I think it would be worth the cost of a few calls to try and locate him and see if he can still find those things. He is a great human being but then had turned quasi-hippie. So there is no way of knowing what he did with his possessions when he took that trip. However, especially because of what he had on the shifting of black firemen right before the assassination, I think it would be worth the cost of a couple of calls. I also think it would be more effecient if I could do this before you get here. You'll not have enough time anyway.

I have tapes that say who a couple of his contacts were. But he has to have had others. And he did try to deal with the FBI (stonewall).

Best,