

~~XXXXXXXX~~ 3/16/74

Dear Mr. Nicolaou,

From your letter of the 9th I would imagine that most of the information you seek is in my book *Frame-Up*. I do not know whether it is available in England. I have bought all the remaining copies of which I know and sell them at the listed price of \$10.00 plus shipping costs. Air costs to England are high. Surface mail takes about three weeks.

In his interest and at his request all of the unauthorized mail to Ray is forwarded to his lawyers, with whom I am in touch. I am therefore interested in how your letters reached him if not through the lawyers. I think you can see that without some such precaution he could be set up.

Do you really believe that with an article you can bring this case "to world wide notice?" For what publication do you plan it?

It is not possible for me to send you any cuttings because there is always the probability of need for them in his defense. I drew heavily on them in the book, not even changing references when I obtained the court records that were reported.

There were several transcripts of the substitute for what you describe as a trial. There was no trial, and this is fundamental to your understanding of what happened and the present situation. The least expensive source is not inexpensive. It will cost about \$100 U.S. The clerk of the court, Memphis, Tenn. USA.

However, if you can get access to Bantam's *The Strange Case of James Earl Ray*, one of the transcripts is printed as an appendix in it. Bantam has a British subsidiary or affiliate.

The "re-trial" has not yet been "forced." It has been ordered by the U.S. Court of Appeals (Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio) but the State is exercising its option of taking this decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. I cannot begin to tell you in a letter what the grounds are because the habeas corpus petition is book length. However, the part emphasized by the majority decision is effectiveness of counsel and whether Foreman in particular had a conflict of interest coming from his literary dealings with William Bradford Huie. On this, aside from the text I print the contracts in facsimile in the book. This letter gives you my permission to use them and that which in particular the decision fixed upon, Foreman's two letters to Ray of 3/9/69, also in the appendix.

The only available pictures of Ray of which I know can be obtained from the wire services. I presume Reuters has them. British papers should also. The Associated Press and United Press International, to my knowledge, also have pictures of him. Whether they are easily or inexpensively available from their London Bureaus I cannot say. Try UPI first if you go to them, based on my dealings with both.

It is probable that there remains about two months in which the State can file its petition certiorari with the Supreme Court. When it will decide whether to hear the case if it does I cannot predict.

You are undertaking an enormous task if you would encapsulate this matter in an article. I wish you well with it. I'm surprised that there is publishing interest there. All the indications I have had are to the contrary.

Good luck!

Harold Weisberg

59 Worcester Way
Wideopen
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE 3
England.

9 March.

Dear Mr Weisburg,

I hope that you will excuse me writing to you out of the blue. I am preparing an article on Mr James E. Ray and he has suggested that you may be prepared to help me. Over in England we were led to believe that the case against Mr Ray was proven beyond all doubt - however as he has just been granted a re-trial this is obviously not the case and I would like to bring this fact to World wide notice.

(1) Could you I wonder send me the address where I can obtain a transcript of the trial?

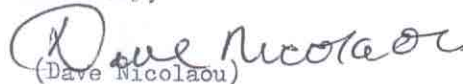
(2) Can you tell me on what grounds that you have forced a re-trial?

(3) Where I can purchase some photographs of James also any press clippings etc.

I promise the safe return of any materials loaned. As I have already promised to Mr Ray my article will be fair and objective with no slant whatsoever. It can only serve to help his case by letting the World know the truth.

I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,


(Dave Nicolaou)