

Dear Phil,

1/15/85

When your 12/6/84, largely Ray, came, I think I wrote and said it would have to wait until I got caught up. Well, I'm not caught up, except in what has become an annual bronchial infection this time of the year. But I did work my way down to this envelope in looking for something else, and I'm embarrassed that it has taken me this long.

The decision in my field offices case was such a moral, ethical, legal and judicial monstrosity that I felt I had to file a petition for an en banc review, even though pro se. Conflict of interest with Jim, created by DJ and fink district court judge, so "ader's people represented Jim and the ACLU me, but for the filing of the appeals briefs only. In fact, I've not had a word from any lawyer since the decision was handed down 12/7. I got it filed and when able have been making efforts to do something with it that could have some meaning. But as it is getting toward supertime I'll let that wait and pick up with this envelope.

Your piece in Critique on the so-called mysterious deaths, Penn's word and not justified, suffers from Pennitis. What you call the class of 1977 does not consist of people who had personal knowledge of the assassination. Sullivan had knowledge of the FBI's attitude and some of its "investigation," but his death is unfortunately typical of the hunting season and not, safe for loose writing and wild imaginings by others, suspect. DeMohrenschildt was quite literally insane and subject to pressures he could not handle, after much bad treatment from the Oltmanns of the world, and there is no reason not to believe he killed himself. Pawley is no more relevant than you are. I can go on and on like this. In this kind of writing you undermine your own credibility. On this let me skip to what caught my eye, 218, "Ferrie was a contract agent for the CIA and an aide to Carlos Marcello." I've heard it said that F was a CIA contract agent but I've seen no proof. And Ferrie was not an aide to Marcello. He was connected with one of "arcello's many lawyers, G. Wray Gill and Gill recommended to Marcello's immigration lawyer, in Washington, the late Jack Wasserman, hiring Ferrie as an investigator.

What "many say" is not a legit source, especially considering who the "manys" see among the wild conspiracy theorists.

Go Penn's wild and irresponsible way and the way you are headed in this article and can you exempt or exculpate anyone? Get your feet on the ground and your head out of the ~~gaga~~ fogs or you'll ruin your rep among thinking people who do not begin with prejudices, esp. those you work with.

Ray's suit against the Archives is insane, based on his or Ark "ane's thought planted with him that the FBI killed King, which is not within possibility. So he has the silly notion that the recordings of the King intercepts will help him prove it. I tried to talk him out of it but he holds to that crazy notion that he has to know simply isn't rational. His interrogatories are largely incompetent, addressed to the wrong defendant.

I'm not even taking time to reread the papers, the first of which is the Hnatman to Heymann of 8/25/78. Those papers were disclosed to me years ago and HSCA could not have been more wrong-headed or utterly irresponsible. They ultimately declined to prosecute as "bootstrapping," whether or not it is in these sheets.

Ray's 12/3/84 to you begins with the insanity about the Alton bank job and is substantially correct. For a hasty and still untested analysis of the HSCA's b.s. on John and the bank jobs see what I filed and is in their Volume 8. They never did produce the raw material they were to have produced and managed to misaddress pretty much all of what they did mail. Prepared under great handicaps and had to be rushed. Filed at last session the committee held.

My recollection of phone numbers no longer clear but independently we, Jim and

I, got the leads to Thompson from an incomplete phone number in Arthur Hanes' notes, as I now recall. Ray was totally uncooperative with me on this aspect, and that alone raises substantial questions when I was his investigator, You did not enclose what he got from Webberman so I know nothing about that. He has changed his story about Rosenman. He claimed originally that it was on the back side of the business card of a federal outfit that didn't exist at that time. Again, he kept this from me. In different form, with Rosenman^{son} the assassin, they used it in what I used to refer to as the Christmas Massacre, meaning of themselves. Jimmy and Jerry.

I think I told you about the DeSoto, your #2 and if I didn't respond to #3, the police within 4 miles of the Lorraine were to file statements including where they were. These did exist, might be somewhere in Tenn and may have been given to FBI but he has strange notions and they can't help Ray.

Your #4 is consistent with my experience and I don't know why he won't open up on Raoul, except that maybe he thinks he'd get killed if he did. He used to prate omerta to me, not going to do the FBI's work for it. He might believe it but it is not that at all so it makes little sense.

#5, I have no knowledge of his conditions after early 1976, last time I saw him. But you can be sure the state doesn't want him knocked off.

#7 He never was much interested in Jim's Grill with me, either, save to tell me, as I recall, that he met Raoul and another there.

I'm glad you had a chance to make your own evaluation. As you can see, giving a meaningful description of such people to those who've never met them and never had experience with such types is impossible and ordinarily would not be believed. Jim and I broke our humps trying to help him and he wasted our time, doing nothing of significance to help his defense and much to obstruct it. He insisted upon making a bad appearance in court, for example, perhaps his expression of personal independence but not very sensible. He did not want to wear a tie, for example. I'm absolutely certain he hasn't levelled with me on some things and some things he did are not rationally explained by his explanations. Like going back to Atlanta just to pick his laundry up, and then going to Canada, delaying escape that long and increasing the possibility of getting caught that much. I've got a notion or two along this line and want to keep this to myself until I have time to develop. By now you know how far out some of their ideas are, but can you imagine driving to Atlanta just to get clothes that were not worth much more than the cost of the trip?

I'm also certain that he knew more about New Orleans than he indicated to me, but what and how I do not know.

He'll never get anything useful under FOIA the way he is going and if the FBI has anything it regards as useful to him it will have it where it can fail to find it under FOIA searches. What you have to understand is that it never investigated the crime itself. Some day I'll recall where I have a duplicate copy of its defense against some charges, that all it ever conducted was a UFAC case, unauthorized flight to avoid confinement. That is partially true. The rest of the ~~truth~~ truth is that with Ray a bird in hand, it was not going to beat the bushes. Except for the irrelevant and immaterial, which it used to inflate statistics and then use those phony statistics to represent the magnitude of its investigation. How could it avoid leaving records that could hurt it? I am certain it was at the DeSoto and did interview those two maids. But there is no record of that in MURKIN. Why? Because it could indicate that Ray met someone there and that could mean conspiracy. which the FBI could not do much about even if it wanted to.

Please excuse the haste, but I wanted to get around to replying and I've much on which I'm far behind. Best wishes,

Harold

December 6, 1984

Dear Harold,

Enclosed is a piece of mine. I've been very busy with the RFK Assassination collection that we have acquired at my library. The collection, from the west coast, arrived last week and we've been unpacking and cataloguing.

I got my chat with Ray last Saturday. I now know what you were trying to tell me about him: he is smart in his own way. He mostly wanted to talk FOIA, but let me give you some highlights and queries:

1. He stonewalled on the Galt alias as he has always done. Even when I pressed him: he insists it was from a phone book.
2. He was very rambling and confusing about whether he had N.O. tel. number(s) for Raoul. He claimed that the FBI had interviewed two black maids, something about a gangster-owned motel. He also claimed that he gave Percy Foreman the last four digits of a N.O. number. I thought Ray was sitting on the secret Raoul phone number(s). Can you clarify?
3. Ray is in FOIA pursuit of something he calls the "four-mile statements"--statements made by all Memphis cops within four miles of the Lorraine. Do these exist? My impression was that Ray was going on heresay--that no one knew if these existed. Do they? If so they would indeed be crucial.
4. Despite a half dozen very sympathetic entrees, he would not discuss or elaborate on in any way the conspiracy or conspirators, he wouldn't even make general references to anything beyond Raoul. Do you think he has ideas he's too scared to share?
5. His "security" seems extraordinary. "Segregation"--locked up 24 hours a day behind nine gates. Has he been "segregated" since his last escape?
6. He claims that when he has enough new data via FOIA, Mark Lane will return with a white hat and defend him at his new trial. He seems to have blocked out the Cowden debacle.
7. He didn't seem at all interested in the stuff I passed on to him about the Jim's Grill witness and the Raoul data turned up by the two Canadian reporters.

But it was worth the trip to get a feel for his mentality--at least as it exists now.

over

December 7

After our phone conversation last night. Enclosed is Ray's letter and the material he sent me. Please consider the letter confidential and give it to no one, since he wrote it to me and the dimensions of in-confidence are unclear.

Any thoughts or clarifications you have on Ray's letter or his enclosures will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards,



Don't give out to James

DATE: Dec 23 1965

MEMPHIS AUG. MEMPHIS
TENNESSEE

Received of Sheriff William N. Morris, Jr. the
sum of \$10⁰⁰. Said monies being sent
by mail to James Earl Ray, with aliases, from CAROL PERRY
who resides at 1055 BELLEVUE MAPLEWOOD, MO. 63143

SISTER The above sum was received in the form of
No. 7573-4834429

cash, check money order.
(circle appropriate)

VERA C. STAPLES
2811 N.W. RIVER DR.
MI, FL.

WESLEY L. LEWIS
Notary Public
BY: [Signature]

James Earl Ray, County Jail

RAY RAY - 710 ANN AVE,
LOUIS, MISSOURI, 63104

JAMES EARL RAY 1982

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
J. FRANKLIN REID, CLERK
BY: [Signature]
DEPUTY CLERK

Dear Mr. Melanson:

After you left last Saturday I located the JD document about Blakey & the perjury charge against my brother John Ray. It is enclosed herein. This bank robbery charge had its beginning some where around May 1968 when an FBI informant I once knew, John Gawron, told the FBI that I and another robbed the Alton Bank in September 1967. Subsequently the FBI discovered that the other alleged robber was in jail at the time of the robbery. Gawron then brought in another robber (apparently my other brother Jerry) but by then the FBI no longer relied on Gawron. (I have seen these FBI documents but don't have them in prison). Anyway later the Select committee picked up the chase and charged me and Jerry with the robbery. This was on August 16 when I appeared before the committee. Thereafter Jerry turned himself in to the Alton police (see enclosed dated Aug. 18th), and offered to stand trial for the robbery. The police said he never was a suspect. (In fact he was working in Chicago the day the robbery was committed but the Select Committee said he couldn't prove it since his work records had been "lost". Thereafter on August 25th Blakey decided my other brother had committed the robbery (John, who didn't have an airtight alibi, and went to the JD seeking the indictment). However, the aforementioned document also read that Blakey had been to see an Earl Silbert on May 24th about the indictment so one wonders why the committee charged Jerry in August with the robbery while talking about indicting John in May about the same robbery unless the committee wanted to charge them both with the robbery. John finally was convicted of aiding & abetting in a bank robbery committed in 1970 and was sentenced by Judge William Webster (now FBI director), to 18 years in federal prison where he still is.

Also enclosed:

1. Three pages from the Interrogatories I filed on the NARS where the Archives say they have 58 cubic feet of records under seal.

2. A receipt from the Shelby county jail where I noted what ph. nrs. I had backwards. The "no. 7573" was the last 4 digits of a New Orleans ph. nr. Raoul gave me. There has been considerable speculation about the first three numbers. Someone named Webberman got the number out of a court document and wrote me about it. (see two enclosed letters from "Independent Research". The other number (483-1429, also backwards), I located in a Baton Rouge telephone directory after Raoul had given it to me as a "back-up number". I never called anyone at the number, I suspect it was given to me in case I was arrested and Raoul & his associates wanted to throw the police off--sort of a diversion. Anyway I didn't remember the number, rather the name matched up with it that I found in the directory; one, Herman Thompson; and after I was arrested had Jerry get the number by calling or asking the operator for Thompson's number. As to the phone numbers Percy Foreman has and said he got them from me or indirectly from me, they are referred to in his deposition he gave in the 1974 HC hearing I had in Memphis, Ray v. Rose, C-74-166 US Dist. Ct. The deposition is reproduced in vol. v. of the Select committee final report. If you have V. check out pp. 234 through 240.

The address on the receipt down backwards, 0811 N.W. Rover Drive, Hi. Fl., is one Randolph Rosenson. I found Rosenson named (original thought Rosen), in my car in Mexico in November 1967 just before crossing the border into the US. The name was written on a business card (backside), and had fell or been planted between the front seats of the Mustang. I'm sure Rosenson had nothing to do with the MLK case. He was in the Andrew Johnson hotel in Knoxville when I escaped in June 1977. His cover story was he had been having car problems, but I'm sure the committee had him there for questioning since the hotel was owned by ~~the late John~~ Boyd Cloud, Gov. Blanton's patronage chief for the Knoxville area, and the committee probably threw a little trade his way. There is more to the Rosenson story in Knoxville which you might obtain from the Knoxville police dept. Reporters Stan DeLozier & David Lyons of the Knoxville "Sentinel". His record evidences he was an informant & I suspect he was being used by someone or agency.

In respect to the stabbing on June 4, 1981, I sued but the district court would not even permit discovery. The suit is now on appeal to the US sixth circuit. There were 4 involved, 3 blacks & one white. The white, apparently at the instigation of the prison administration directly or indirectly told ch. 5 tv in Nashville that I had said to have the stabbing performed. The story was that I had said to have the