

Warren Smith, P.O. Box 897, Clinton, Iowa
James Earl Ray, Smith's investigation

Harold Weisberg 5/21/69

Smith phoned me the evening of 5/15, while Dick Bernabei was here, saying Louis Ivon had told him I "knew more about the National States Rights Party than anyone". Smith is a free-lance writer working on a series of articles his agent hopes to sell in Europe, he says. He says he makes his living freelancing (the Vanishing American). However, it is immediately clear that Smith connects the NSRP and Ray/King murder. During the rather long conversation he asked me little about the NSRP, however, which may mean only that he assumed I might not want to discuss it openly on the phone. I did, as I recall, volunteer some and offer to show him what I had, in confidence, here.

Smith has been working on this for a while, apparently had just returned from Memphis, had spoken to Hanes and had "skid row" sources in Memphis in whom he imparted trust.

He knows nothing about Ryan. One of the things that surprised him is that no one seemed to know anything about Ryan who appears to be a very minor part of Memphis legal life.

The King autopsy is unavailable because the family wants it that way and the authorities will not let anyone see it without family assent.

The man Ray phoned in N.C. is named (or goes by the name of) Tony. He knows no more. He says someone overheard Ray phoning "Tony". Tony is said to have been in Memphis when King was murdered.

Ray told Hanes he had been told to drive to Memphis and check into a motel flying the confederate flag. When Ray was 20 miles out he saw such a place and did check in. He later learned this was not the right one and went to the Rebel, the next day.

Probably in June Smith plans to drive to NYC to see his agent and he will then stop of here.

He seems to believe as I do about the case. I do not recall seeing anything under his name, which means nothing for I see few magazines.

He said he was going to send the story AP moved by Gavzer, that a day or a day or so earlier. I have not received it yet.

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