

1/20/78

Dear J.B. Stener,

Sorry this got lost in the stack on my desk. If he did what I asked him to do before I got these extra copies Jerry should have sent them to you.

I heard from him today. He still talks and thinks like a child. I'm sorry for him.

Jimmy appears to have flipped out entirely.

I have some information from several dependable sources.

When Freed and Cohen phoned you they were using what is called a psychological stress evaluator. When they asked you if you had known Jimmy earlier than he said they were hoping the machine would show you were not telling the truth. In my opinion these machines "say" whatever the operator wants them to "say."

They and Lane are pals of a pal of Fensterwald's named O'Toole, who used to be he says used to be - CIA. He has this gadget from those days.

They have the reputation of using - or misusing - this all the time. Not just on you. But on you they boasted, which is how it got back to me. From one to whom they boasted, one I've not been in touch with for a while.

The east-coast and the west-coast crews have some common projects. On some they work on separately. Lane and Dick Gregory have a book deal with the ancillaries lined up so Freed, Cohen & Co. are working on a different kind of book. They are bragging of being in regular touch with Jimmy and of getting material from him. They will not need copies. They'll wave envelopes around and they are in and accredited.

Typically Jimmy has not only said nothing of this. He has implied the opposite.

It is simply incredible to me that Jimmy would ignore what he has been told, that these people he is dealing with not only believe he was the killer but whether or not they believe it tried to place stories with him as the killer and you and Jerry as co-conspirators.

Whether or not they are police agents - and a case can be made out - they have a long record of doing or saying anything. If you can find any of Freed's stuff, like The Glass House Tapes, read it.

I've got it put away but I do have a copy of the story they were trying to peddle, what the Tennesseean almost went for. I have to protect my source but you can see it.

The way the phonies Abby Mann and Lane have worked it is to use Kojak to get to speak to Holloman, who was led to believe it was for NBC, and then others by other devices and lies, and then to go to Coretta King on this with far-out stories. She got Andy Young and others working on it. Young lined the black caucus in the Congress up and Lane used Fauntroy, as Mann also did. Lane is even saying he is Jimmy's lawyer. This and what came from a CIA fixer feger is now the House investigation came about.

The investigation has prosecutor-types and big-city cops in all key positions. I'm staying away. I've had tough fights with a couple and said I'd have nothing to do with the committee except under certain circumstances. The first was that two not be connected. The first of these two has departed. The second is Sprague. He has problems and he'll have more of them. Jerry still will not believe that they have already said Jimmy is the assassin. I have just heard from him. I do fear that between Jimmy and Jerry the FBI does not need much help. Jimmy was not as jail-wise as he thinks. He left one hell of a trail for an escapee. He probably had no notion of what lay ahead. But I'm telling you there was no real trouble tracing him before he told Huie all he did. You'll have to spend days to read it all. Meanwhile, Jerry's notion of a solution is to cop Sunday's on judges.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg