

9/28/77

Dear Wes,

After reading the AP's story on the indictment of Stoner in the W xPost I phoned. You were not in. I spoke to ^{Ken}, who left it that if they wanted more they'd call back. So they wanted no more. Perhaps you can get a magpiece out of the Stoner defense.

I'm sure I went ~~it~~ into this with you relating to your conversation with him. The business provides a view of the FBI as unchanged.

I told the Internal Security people in 1969, when Stoner first told me, that he claimed their finks had tried to set him up. Instead of an interest them, to short a long story, it was twisted into me and his conniving to defame the FBI.

Stoner told the same story on TV in 1972, on a black show in St. Louis on which I was with him, the only time I've ever seen him

I know his source of knowledge that those he says made offers of the kind ~~affairs~~ in the story. ^{It} was Al Lingo, who had been given FBI records showing they were FBI finks.

If Stoner is guilty, and I do have some trouble believing he'd do such things himself, this may be enough to squat if he can establish it.

Were he to subpoena me, a development I would not look forward to with joy, I'd have to tell the truth and 'd have to testify under the circumstances: that the DJ lied about this and what I said; the internal records I have. With this, not wanting to be part of Stoner's defense, do not want to go public now.

The enclosures I've to do with other finking and relate to what some of your Invader sources told you. They, or some of them, did suspect the man. But despite it both the man and this on were permitted to remain in. Thus the great Invaders successes.

I'm leaving for speech near Madison, Wisc. in the morning. From there I'm going to LA and from there to Seattle, whence home a week from Friday, 10/7, about a little after supper, depending on the time I spend in D.C. if I go there from Dulles. If you want to reach me Jim and I both know where and when and how.

As you know Jan t copy all the records but one that may interest you is that the Johnson Pub. was using as its Memphis contact an informant.

I do not regard the phoney liberal as a good or dependable source but some years ago George McMill looked into those bombings. He did a piece for the old Saturday Evening Post. His bitch wife, Priscilla, has places in ^{Mc}gmore, S.C. and where she is more likely to be, Cambridge. She teaches at Harvard. And there is always Harper & Row with her book Marina and Lee, about to appear.

Best,

9/27/58
Post

Georgia Lawyer Indicted in 1958 Ala. Church Blast

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 27 (UPI) —A grand jury has indicted an avowed racist Georgia lawyer for a 1958 bombing of a black church here and more indictments will be sought for other racial bombings in addition to a murder indictment already returned in another case, sources said today.

The sources said the indictment was sent to Marietta, Ga., to be served on J. B. Stoner, director of the National States Rights Party. Georgia officials confirmed that the indictment had been forwarded.

Stoner was indicted Monday for the 1958 bombing of the black Bethel Baptist Church, sources said. No one was injured in the blast.

Stoner said he expected to be arrested shortly and would fight extradition to Alabama. "I'm not guilty," he said.

Sources told The Washington Post last night that Stoner's name came up during a separate investigation into the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, in which four children were killed.

Stoner has not been linked to that bombing, they said.

A spokesman for the Cobb County Sheriff's Department in Marietta said last night that he was still awaiting the indictment of Stoner. When it is received, said Chief Deputy Leonard Holt, a Georgia fugitive warrant will be obtained and served on Stoner. The warrant is a formality enabling Georgia officials to act on another state's indictment, Holt said.

Stoner said that, if arrested, he would file a habeas corpus petition naming an undercover FBI agent and a Birmingham police detective who allegedly tried to recruit him in 1957 for the bombing of Bethel Baptist Church, whose minister, the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, was a black civil rights leader.

"This same undercover agent wanted me to arrange for the killing of Martin Luther King (Jr.). This was about 1957," Stoner said. At the time, King, who was slain in 1968 in Memphis, was pastor of a church in Montgomery, Ala.

"He insisted that I find a good marksman to kill King—they wanted it done by rifle," Stoner said.

He said he didn't know why the men also wanted the Birmingham church bombed. "I know I didn't have anything to do with it," Stoner said.

Former Ku Klux Klansman Robert Chambliss, 73, was indicted by the same grand jury Monday on four counts of first-degree murder for the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. He was arrested at his home and is being held without bond.