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3/15/88

Dear Tony

Thanks for taking the time when you've so much of your own work to do.

I have never prepared such a summary and I don't know what your people would react to. I've thought about this only briefly so I can have something to get into the mail if someone who is going into town comes, to save a day. I have a feeling, and with more experience your own feeling might be better, that rephrasing the last graf and beginning with it and a little about me and how I got this info might get the editor's attention.

Harold Weisberg, 75 year old former reporter, investigative reporter, Senate investigator and decorated wartime intelligence analyst, was investigator for James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when Ray sought what he has never had, a trial. Weisberg's investigation overcame judicial refusal to grant Ray an evidentiary hearing to determine whether he would get a trial. He then conducted the investigation for that hearing. As a result, although Ray was exculpated by the refuting of the alleged evidence against him, the judge held that guilt or innocence <sup>was</sup> were then immaterial because Ray had entered the guilty plea he claimed had been coerced.

Thereafter, to prepare for the book he proposes, <sup>Weisberg</sup> he sued the Department of Justice, the FBI and the CIA for their pertinent records under the Freedom of Information Act. (Congress amended FOIA in 1974 over one of his earlier lawsuits, thus opening the files of the intelligence agencies and leading to exposure of some of their misdeeds.) After more than a decade of litigation, Weisberg obtained about 75,000 pages of formerly secret government documents relating to this assassination.

Point by point, the evidence the government had and withheld or misrepresented proves the exact opposite of official representations of it. It shows that the crime itself was never investigated, that Ray's lone guilt was assumed, and that the official investigation was intended to validate the official assumption while it in fact does the exact opposite. <sup>Most</sup> ~~None~~ of this documentation has ever been used.

What is perhaps most unusual is that the suppressed official investigation confirms Weisberg's private investigation, proving ~~that~~ that Ray was not at the scene of the crime when it was perpetrated and in other details.

1) The FBI's own evidence, including more than a thousand pages of laboratory examinations, indicates rather convincingly that Ray could not have committed the crime and that the fatal shot could not have been fired as officially alleged. This includes photographs and police reports establishing that as of <sup>almost the instant the shot was fired</sup> ~~the time of the crime~~.

the window through which the shot allegedly was fired was not open enough to accommodate a rifle. No Ray fingerprints were found anywhere in that entire building. Many witnesses informed the FBI that Ray's car was not there. About 10 witnesses, including Memphis police and firemen, told the FBI the <sup>different</sup> actual point from which the shot was fired.

2) When Ray was on the lam, in Los Angeles, he was phoned and then visited by an FBI "symbol" (or official) informer from the east coast. (Weisberg prefers to withhold several names until the book for security reasons.) Weisberg has the FBI's records, which were withheld from the prosecution in this and the following matter.) Soon after this visit Ray drove east and Dr. King was assassinated.

3) Weisberg obtained a tape-recorded admission by a former official of the union in support of whose strike Dr. King was in Memphis in which he states that the assassination was by the <sup>Louisiana</sup> Teamsters Union. His source had earlier given the tape to the FBI, which conducted no investigation of it at all.

3) Using a copy of notes Ray had provided to earlier counsel, Arthur Hanes, a former FBI agent and CIA contract employee, Weisberg traced a phone number to a <sup>Baton Rouge</sup> close/associate of Edward Grady Partin, head of that <sup>2</sup> Teamsters district. The FBI's own records establish that when Ray was driving westward the key to a Birmingham bank safe deposit box he used was mailed to the bank several days after Ray left Baton Rouge, when he was ~~in California~~ in Texas and Mexico. An address in these notes led Weisberg to a house in New Orleans owned by this same close Partin associate. (He has photographs of it.) Partin, who had been close to the late Jimmy Hoffa, Teamsters head, became a spy for the Department of Justice. This led to Hoffa's conviction. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ For this service Partin had 25 criminal charges, two capital offenses, dropped.

4) Three days before the assassination the FBI was warned that Dr. King would be killed when he returned to Memphis. It did not warn Dr. King or his party and it tried for months to be able to continue to suppress these records, which were ultimately produced under the compulsion of the court.

5) Ray's communications with his lawyers were systematically intercepted and xeroxed, in violation of the court's order - even correspondence with the judge himself. Weisberg has copies from the FBI and the prosecutor's files. This judge died mysteriously while he was drafting what Weisberg and Ray's then counsel believe was an Order for a trial. The judge's chambers were <sup>immediately</sup> then cleansed of every record. Even the pages of his desk calendar are missing.

Weisberg and Ray's former counsel believe that the previously secret official evidence that will be the backbone of the book are enough to force a reopening of the criminal investigation and Ray's freedom. (The only legal channel open to Ray is "New evidence," which this is. Weisberg still has a friendly relationship with Ray

and his family despite the fact that they are racists.) . . .

The little suggested personalization is not ego. It is intended for credentials and to indicate promotional possibilities.

It has been more than 20 years since I dealt with agents, editors and publishers whereas your experience is current, so please use your own judgement and send whatever you think best.

I am reluctant to make any use of Hardin's name and I'd have to search to locate Humphreys' because I find I have no separate file on him.

On another matter, if any of your friends in British TV has any interest in American Indians or if in general TV there <sup>has</sup> is, I am about to have a visit from Dave Wrone, who is an authentic expert. He has located and has more or less under his wing the last of the <sup>Menominee</sup> ~~Menominee~~ (phon) wood ~~script~~ <sup>has</sup> sculptors (~~Hoos~~ <sup>Moose</sup> clan) who does what ~~to~~ me is beautiful work recording their story in his work. If you don't recall Dave is Prof. History at Univ. Wisconsin, Stevens Point. Over much opposition he has been trying to preserve their culture and help them and other tribes and clans of tribes and has many contacts with them.

Thanks and best wishes,



The following is a summary of key new facts, discovered and researched by Harold Weisberg, which would form the kernel of a fresh book on the assassination of Martin Luther King. The information would have made a nonsense of the government case against James Earl Ray, in the murder of Martin Luther King, had there been a trial - or had it been known publicly at the time.

(1) Two weeks before Dr. King was murdered, in Los Angeles, Ray received phone calls from, and was visited by, James C. Hardin. Following the visit, Ray left Los Angeles, and made his way to Memphis - where he murdered King. James Hardin, according to a senior FBI official, was an FBI informant.

(2) Ray gave one of his lawyers, Arthur Hanes, addresses and phone numbers relating to the time he spent in New Orleans before the murder. He had kept the phone numbers written back to front, he said, for security reasons. One of the addresses relates to a house then owned by (Harold please fill in first name) ..... Humphries, of Baton Rouge. The key to Ray's safety deposit box had been mailed to him by someone in Baton Rouge. One of the phone number's in Ray's "back-to-front," notes, when decoded, turns out to have been Humphries'. Humphries had close links with Edward Grady Partin, a controversial Teamster official with a criminal record, including indictments (singular or plural, Harold?) for murder. By Partin's own admission, he once (with Jimmy Hoffa) discussed a plan to have a sniper kill Robert Kennedy.

(3) A former senior official of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees made a tape-recorded statement saying that Ray was framed in the King assassination, and that members of the Teamsters Union organized the killing. Edward Grady Partin, he said, was a key perpetrator. In 1972 the FBI was supplied with this allegation (of which the transcript is available), and the tape-recording itself, and did nothing about it.

(4) The FBI - which at the time of <sup>the</sup> assassination had been harrassing King on Hoover's personal orders - was warned before the murder that King was to be killed on that visit to Memphis, and did not warn him.

(5) Other information, related to the physical evidence, indicates convincingly that Ray did not murder King, indeed that the shot was not fired from the supposed sniper's perch at all. A picture taken within seconds shows the bathroom window - supposedly the source of the shots - closed. No fingerprints of Ray were found in the bathroom. Compelling testimony indicates that Ray's car was not parked at the <sup>nearby</sup> relevant time, as officially claimed. The alibi he has offered is supported by witnesses discovered during Harold Weisberg's research.