

1/14/74

Dear Martin,

I'd wondered at your silence. And I'd have written you if I had your Houston address when something happened. But it didn't happen anyway.

If I didn't explain, permit me not to lament having to wear two hats with Ray and the King assassination. And so you can evaluate my sincerity, I have made no public reference to the fact that I am his investigator, not even when he wanted me to and it could have sold my book.

So, there are some things that I have not used and will not unless there is a change because I must not compromise what is in his interest and what I have developed in the role of his investigator. This is not merely because it is in his interest. It is because if those who control this society will not live by its rules ~~the~~ us hoi polloi must or all of it is corrupt.

I have enough now for another book. If I could find someone like a Mailer who would be willing to practise his preaching I'd share it. The immediate prospect is that I'll have to hold onto the literary material, perhaps for a long time. But there are parts of it not essential to his defense if this ever gets into court that I could and would let others have.

There could be a helluva expose of Foreman. I have enough. You have confirmed a little more. And I have three Rays, all separately and independently on tape with vivid descriptions that do stack.

I have so many hours of James on tape I can't remember how many. I have a long interview with John, made in heavenwrprth for James' habeas corpus. Nobody except the youngest of the lawyers has heard them, by the way. He did a helluva job of drafting that petition, now before 6th circuit and decision overdue.

I think it would be better if you made no use of this, ~~but~~ With what you confirm I'll explain part of the reason I asked you to try to get tapes of Percy blabbing and whatever the Houston papers carried. This question is before the courts now and if the decision is against James Percy has just blabbed enough to give me all we need for a petition for a rehearing, perhaps en banc.

James, probably under Stoner's and Jerry's pressure, would not give me those two phone numbers. They are farright fascists. If I were a Jew only it would be horris enough for them. But I kept the pressure on him as the lawyers do not and he gave us two, not identically as described in his recent hokum. One is identical as far as we can tell. The other is vintage Stoner. And there is no reason to credit it. It is that "mid-East" connection in James' description. If it is then it is a third number. And it is not mid-East but the kind of impossibility Art Hanes' politics drove him to inventing. Not Cuban.

You are correct in presuming Charlie Stein is the one Foreman says is his source. But it simply can't be, which is what makes the whole thing important. I have and checked that number out. It is in Frame-Up and there has been not a peep from the La. State trooper ~~to~~ to whom it led.

Long before there was any possibility of the recent caper James told me he had given Foreman the numbers to check out and that Foreman had never told him anything about them. So, James is not making that up. Besides, it is logical. ~~So~~ We have Foreman not only having two numbers neither of which he currently describes correctly but we know that he conducted no investigation. So, with Charley not the source, what can it be except the Bureau of the prosecution?

We have no way of knowing whether James has given us real numbers or whether he and Stoner and Jerry or what is more likely, Stoner and Jerry have cooked something up. The Baton Rouge number - and Foreman lied about this - leads to a Partin honcho. One of the New Orleans numbers, the one we have, seems to also. And what makes that more interesting

is that entirely independently I arrived at the very building in which that number was. I have pictures of it and a history from the neighbors. If it came from a skilled novelist it could fit no better.

The odds against coincidence are heavy.

The one thing that is certain beyond question is that Foreman put Ray away. He could have walked him and it would have been one of his easier cases. The feds offered Ray a deal. What they didn't know is that he did not have what they wanted to know so he pretended devotion to ~~merita~~ omerta. If Ray gets into court there is not enough to send the case to the jury. This is why they are doing to him all the things they are.

One of the more incredible aspects is that Canale has given Ray an airtight alibi. I'll explain this when you are here. I have the whole thing on tapes and I'm the only one who has all those involved. One of the lawyers has a copy of one of the tapes.

I've been writing this while doing a number of other things, so it is probably disjointed. Let me come to a conclusion on Foreman, on whom there is much more than I'm telling you. He has a record of putting clients away for the mob. One case, one I have absolutely airtight, complete with the relevant correspondence, has startling parallels to the Ray case. Even ethnic and vehicular. When Foreman put him away, the client got another lawyer who, like Ray's present defense, worked pro bono. This man actually solved the case. He offered Mitchell, Kleindienst and I think Will Wilson the solution. They would not even reply. So, the innocent man is now free and the guilty, thanks to Foreman and this Watergate gang, are also free. Known and free.

After reading my book, which is aimed largely at him, Foreman flew to New York to do a TV show. He didn't find out he was to confront me until the makeup man had him. He then roared and fled, hurling libel threats as he fled, without taking his makeup off. The show went off without him, with an empty chair. I have tapes, as aired and made in the studio. It happened so fast the Times could not change the TV highlight listing. It has Foreman and me in confrontation.

Ole Percy doesn't consider himself inferior as a debater to a chicken farmer.

The Times now owns Quadrangle. There could be a successful and worthwhile book in this. Of course, they are hung up on me. We can break the Ray case. That is not the same as solving the King assassination. It is now fairly close, with what I have already. What I am suggesting is that there is both sensational news stories and a good book still in this.

I presume some authority, state or federal, told you that Ray had been beaten up in Nashville and that is why they put him in solitary. Bullshit. This happened less than 48 hours after the youngest of the lawyers saw him and he was unhurt then. With the pressure on to get him out, they'd have used this defense if it had happened in that short interval. I also think he'd have told one of us or his family. Their real reason is to drive him across that thin line so he can't stand trial if one is ordered. That is also why they were sending him to Springfield, to get the proof. It may exist now. But they also now can't get it. Under state law he could not be moved into a federal pen. The feds were willing. But when the right questions were asked of the right people, the whole thing was aborted.

This does not begin to indicate what I now have. I have totally exculpatory evidence redundantly. The restraints are those I impose on myself. The material is my own property. It is also all my own work. Even what the lawyers got I arranged for. I think an honest, responsible job would ~~serve~~ serve the interests of justice and the innocent criminal.

If 6th circuit rules against us I'll be even more disposed. If they rule for us, I suspect the State will take the case to the Supreme Court.

Hope you can make it here before you make any proposals to New York.

There is quite a story in what happened to John Ray. The lawyer to whom I turned that stuff over will be filing a petition cert for him before the Supreme Court any day now.

Hope you find more in St. Paul that I did. I had tails. Best regards,

*Frank*

~~Mr. Martin Waldron  
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