

7/9/70

Dear Mr. Walton,

Hearing from you takes me back many years, to when I went to Delaware and worked for the "Morning News". What is the "Independent", an underground paper?

I can't take the time to answer all your questions, much as I'd like to. And let me also ask one: how did you find out about my successful suit? To the best of my knowledge, there was no wire-service coverage, save for less than a stick UPI moved on filing. The Washington Post carried a story, omitting my address. Ditto NY Daily News, which also omitted name.

The data I shook loose confirms what I had in the book already. It does not add anything new. With the book more than 300,000 words long, plus a lengthy appendix, it isn't possible to encapsulate it for you.

I do not know what else they are holding back that may tend to show existence of a conspiracy. I have some suspicions and I know what any decent investigation should have developed, but I cannot, responsibly, go further now.

The sequestered witness is Gracie Stephens, common-law wife of Charles Quitman Stephens, both non-witnesses, but she may have seen a running man who could not have been Ray. She says she did and I have no reason to doubt her. I call Stephens "Fourbon Charlie", and he saw nothing but the bottle and the money the press gave him to refresh his memory. If that is what got refreshed.

There is no quantitative measurement of the official coverups I can give you, but generally both local and federal government hid everything tending to exculpate and didn't look for incriminating evidence on anyone but Ray. However, the hiding was so careful, you do not know how King was killed, not even if, as I doubt, you read the minitrial transcript.

Your other questions cannot be answered simply and there is no explicit answer I can make, so I'd have to skip them.

If you do anything, please send me a copy.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

July 7, 1970

Albert S. Walton Jr.
R. D. 2
Newark, Delaware 19711

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am doing research for an article in a local newspaper, the "Wilmington Independent," about the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

Could you give me any information you can about your investigation into the King murder. Specifically, have any leads come from the release of James Earl Ray's extradition papers by the Justice Department? What other information is the government holding that may tend to point to a conspiracy?

Is there any evidence that you could disclose which points to a link between the murders of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King? Can you name any groups, such as the CIA, which might have been involved in the King murder?

I have heard that a key witness to the King murder was put away in an asylum. Who was this, and could you give any information about this? To what extent have either the local or the Federal governments tried to "cover up" any conspiracy?

Of course, I would appreciate any information you feel should be made public, but which has been scissored from coverage by the mass media. We would be glad to publish it.

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely,

Albert S. Walton Jr.
Albert S. Walton Jr.