

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701  
1/19/77

Congressman Don Edwards  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Edwards,

Enclosed is a copy of my today's letter to Dick Sprague's assistant on the assassinations committee. Because in it I refer to you and to Jack Anderson I am sending you a copy. I am sending one to Anderson through Les Whitten, who I know and like.

Anderson did make a personal attack on your integrity on this morning's AM America show. My belief is that if you had seen more than the electrode ~~in~~ tip of that particular iceberg you might have said more.

You may remember your call to me during Watergate days and your subsequent inability to keep that appointment. I then would not agree to speak as I would have to you, a total stranger, to any unknown you might have substituted. If I knew nothing of you except that you had been an FBI agent I did know something about others.

When I was a young man I knew some very fine human beings who were then FBI agents and from whom I learned <sup>fact</sup>. Today I know some I regard as felons and who should be punished as felons are punished. So FBI agents are like the rest of us, human beings. I sue the FBI with some regularity for one in my circumstances but I will not make what I regard as an unjustified criticism of it. What I have regarded as justified criticisms I have made and I will make.

Your subcommittee is the subcommittee on Constitutional rights. I hope you can agree with my belief, that whether one is what others regard as a good person or not a good person is immaterial on questions of Constitutional rights.

In my belief whether you or others regard James Earl Ray as a good person or not a good person has ~~not~~ relationship to whether the House, through its assassinations subcommittee, by unhidden leaks and its report, has intruded upon these rights. It has, without any investigation or any real hearing, declared to the largest audience it could command, that Ray is the assassin - and this prior to the exhausting of his legal remedies. And it has done this in deliberate contradiction of entirely uncontradicted evidence that to my personal knowledge was in its possession.

I have no concern for any intrusion into my rights by this committee, if my letter does not make this clear. I do not anticipate any formalization of this request by subpoena. Even less do I anticipate any desire on its part to either force the issue or provide me with a forum for a statement of my reasons for refusing it. There is nothing personal in my writing you.

With today's attack on the press for doing its job, an attack totally without even the suggestion of inaccuracy, with this bracketed with an attack on you for raising a basic question of rights, proprieties and common decencies, I fear it is all lost in a Byzantine situation in which the country is the loser and the only possible winners are those who have responsibilities they do not want to face and parts they want to hide.

While Mr. Sprague's former and long-time close association with one he must, inevitably investigate appears to me to be a conflict of interest he cannot resolve by recusal, I was nonetheless willing to trust him when the House decided to use him. I did perform on this trust. He has permitted no basis for trust to remain and Mr. Gonzalez has not.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg