

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
3/20/78

Mr. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel
Select Committee on Assassinations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Blakey,

When you phoned last week and said that you and Mr. Everhart(?) would like to consult with me I outlined the limitations I believe I must impose on myself and said that I would like Jim Lesar, who had been James Earl Ray's lawyer and is my lawyer, to be present. You agreed. I have since spoken to Mr. Lesar. He is agreeable, depending on his situation at the time.

Mr. Lesar is engaged in the solest of sole practise. His present schedule is very heavy, in both district and appeals courts for me alone. He has been required to ask for extensions of time. I therefore suggest that when you know when you would like to do this that you please arrange with Mr. Lesar so he can adjust his schedule to accomodate this.

Despite my age and the state of my health my days also are very long. I began this morning at 4:45. However, my situation is more flexible than Mr. Lesar's. Thursday mornings I have a medical appointment. If necessary I can shift it to Wednesday. I will be away April 6, for that day only. At a time not yet set for the week of March 27 I expect a reporter with whom I work to be here for several days. If you prefer some time that week this can be adjusted to your convenience if I know in advance. As of now I have no other obligations that do not permit whatever available time you may desire. I am engaged in a time-consuming consultancy but it is understood that this is not to be at the cost of other things I must do.

After we spoke several things came to mind. Because I attached no preconditions when we spoke and I agreed I feel that I now cannot attach any preconditions now. However, I do ask that you consider these matters.

Virtually all of Mr. Lesar's work is pro bono. This is a heavy financial burden for any lawyer, more so because Mr. Lesar is just beginning private practise. Your committee is amply funded and has provision for paying counsel. I believe it would be only fair to pay Mr. Lesar. I also believe that his presence is necessary in your interest. You told me you knew nothing of the background of my relations with your committee so I'll explain this briefly.

I broke off any relationship with your committee over the matter of James Earl Ray's rights. I had been assured they would be protected and that I would not be asked either to compromise these rights or to have any association with anything that could in any way transgress against them. When I protested the first such transgression Richard Sprague twice assured me on this score only to have your committee involve Mr. Lesar in what he regarded as a violation of Mr. Ray's rights. So Mr. Lesar has personal knowledge in this area.

You may have no knowledge of the arrangements I had with your committee or the efforts I made to help it. These go back to the earlier days of consideration of the resolution. On several occasions I was asked for position papers for Mr. Downing. There were two such occasions at the time of the first Rules committee hearings. I also let your committee have a box of my records. Your counsel would have left here with more of them if he had been willing to take more than this carton of them. (I had some difficulty retrieving these records.) Of the trips I made to Washington I was to have had my costs repaid for two. I have not been repaid.

You may have no knowledge of it but I do and have done all the work I do without regular income or subsidy of any kind. Last year my expenditures of cash in FOIA matters exceeded my gross income.

At the same time my expertise is such that the Department of Justice has certified to federal courts that I know more about the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King than anyone in the FBI.

What income I have from consultancies on both subjects I use in furthering knowledge on both subjects.

While I did not ask in advance to be paid as a consultant, your committee has in fact paid others as consultants and I think it would be only fair to treat me in the same manner. Moreover, this would avoid the inherent unfairness to others, who do pay me, as is normal in consultancies.

I hope you will give this some thought even if I do not now insist on payment.

If you come from Vienna and Mr. Everhart comes from Washington you will both know how to reach the Frederick area and you will both be on the road that as it leaves the Washington area will be identified as 1270. At Frederick the same road loses this identity at the point of intersection with US15N, which I believe you may use. At that point the road is only US15N. Soon it also becomes US 40W.

As you near Exit 6 you will see a Holiday Inn on the wrong or left side of the dual highway. Take Exit 6 W, go under the road you have been on, and go to that Holiday Inn. There turn right onto Baughman's Lane and go past the motel to a 4-way stop, at Shookstown Road. Here turn left for about 2 miles, to Old Receiver Road. It is about 5/8 of a mile to Shookstown Road from the motel. Turn right on Old Receiver Road, for about .3 miles. Our lane is just before our large black mailbox. You cannot see the house from the road. Our name is on the box. Both the box and our home are on the right side of Old Receiver Road. It is only about 7 or 8 minutes from the motel to our home.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg