HC

Dear Jim, Lane as Ray's lawyer and the House assassins HW 4/5/78

Last night Ted Gandolfo phoned to tell me what he described as very important news. It was about Lane, the committee and yesterday's demonstrations in Memphis. Lane had phoned him from Memphis, which is strange.

= About the demonstrations, the part where Ted said that the demonstrators, who included black eminences, demanded a trial for Ray is true. I'd heard some on radio. The part I heard was pretty extreme yet came from black establishmentarians.

Lane thinks it will get Ray a trial through the Tenn. legislature.

What also seems strange is that Lane invited Ted to share the platform in a couple of days when he and Gregory are at Fordham. Ted says he declined but offered to go there and tape it for Lane. He will give me a dub. (He is out of tapes so I sent him my reserve supply of two dozen this morning. The tape Carmen's daughter transcribed is a good one, if you would not mind asking for it for me, please.)

It is not easy to visualize Lane sharing any attention. With Gregory he does not share - he gains. But from Ted no gain and possible problems. So I find myself wondering, including whether this is another sign that Lane has flipped out a bit more.

Lane told Ted that Vlakey is the hitman, changed to legal hitman for organized crime. This is verbatim. Ted played the tape to me. It is a little wild, even for Lane, and it makes him vulnerbale. I find myself wondering if he is aiming for someone to give him trouble for this and for other reasons.

= He told Ted that the committee has threatenged him with disbarrment over his insistence on representing both Jimmy and Jerry Ray. Especially when at the same time Lane says the committee has concluded that Jimmy is the assassin do I wonder about Lane's insistence on creating an obvious interest conflict and making good guys of the committee on this. There IS a conflict.

Ted says that Lane says that from a best possible inside source he has learned that the committee's report will agree with the commission's with one exception: it will say that but two shots were fired and that one of these caused the Tague wound.

Frankly I don't see how the committee can get Lane disbarred for trying to respect the wishes of two clients. I do know that Jerry is insistenfe on Lane being with him. Very much so, willing to contest the issue and risk jail from what he has told me. Regardless of why this, it seems to me, clears Lane of any charge the committeee might make, and I doubt very much it would make any to the bar.

If I'm right I wonder is there is anything more here than Lane building himself up with one who talks much and who would get the word around. As he took it so literally he phoned me promptly, after cueing in his tape to the Blakey quote.

The Fordham invitation could have been nullified by Gregory, so that does not have to be taken as any more than some kind of bait Ted did not perceive. I think this conversation was intended for airing on Ted's show, that Lane asked for it and that I'll get a tape of it.

I've taken this time because I think taken in all Lane is up to something. I have long believed that he is not rational. He is putting on strange acts, like making a show of going to church and pretending it is not a show. Is he now trying to contrive a martyr situation for himself and his movie with which he can do nothing? And for other conjectural purposes?

= The picture Ray IDed is not Frenchy. It is one the committee showed him, which makes me wonder about Lane's truthfulness in what he told Ed Errin, what he told the Knoxville reporter or college audience in the enclosed clip. If I were to make a Tarout guess, McLaren from McCity. Remember? Jimmy has seen the sketch but not the reports. Best,