

If you did save such stories, let me limit this. I am not interested in the Cornbread Carter stuff, things like that, but in statements by those who would be accepted, generally, as responsible (Caldwell thought the cops did it at first, according to Frank); King's SCLC party, not driver; officials before they invented the bathroom window fiction; the finding of the bundle (where early wire copy and west-coast stories have the best chance of being accurate, for that, too, was soon changed. In short, only what is not generally accepted and known and before invention of the substitute for fact.

The John Pilger quoted in the AP wire copy not used anywhere of which I know, his interview with Teddy on assassination, is the same John Pilger of FRAME-UP. I suspect he avoided me, despite his writing that he'd look me up when he was here again, because he knows I suspect he is the one who bribed Stephens. He got from Teddy as explicit a statement as I've seen. I am glad to have that, thanks. H

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4/11--with interruptions and not feeling well, I've been going slowly in Frank. It sickens me because it is the sickening work of a sickening man. One could feel cleaner in a leprosarium or, what is I think a better figure, a whorehouse. The vlack Judas fear I expressed in FRAME-UP is warranted in an entirely different way. Frank has abused these people terribly. In some cases, as with Abernathy, the payoff is already obvious (~~KIX~~ Kyles asked me a question that lets me see this clearly and certainly), if it is not obvious that Abernathy takes it that way. Anyway, one of the things missing in all accounts I've read, all official records I've seen, is here, one of the advantages of the novelist's approach. Earl Caldwell was there. Frank leaves it implied but not explicit that he missed the first edition, which closes at 7 p.m. But for such a story, when the account here has Caldwell getting a phone almost the minute of the shot makes me believe it was possible to remake fast enough. The first is not the edition of record (which closes 11 p.m.) Caldwell dictated to a recorder, and in time I'll see if that was kept. Meanwhile, your edition is the first one. X If you kept that story or anything by Caldwell or anything eyewitness for the first 24 hours, I'd appreciate it. One of the things I think will become clear is the source of the shot, at least to the extent that it could not have come from inside any building. I know where it came from, so I have different purposes in this request. In fact, I'd really like any first-day stories you have and the initial wire copy, undoubtedly from the local papers, but AP and UPI each has an office at the Memphis Pub. Co., one man on duty at a time in each as of year ago. The UPI man was very helpful in another way. I have interviewed him. ...Of all the crumbs I've read on the assassinations, I think the most contemptible is Frank, because of his picky and pure pretenses when he has to know he is as crooked as he intends to be. H

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