

1/23/93

Phil Lerman

Fox TV

5151 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Phil,

I'm glad you listened to me as much as you did. I'm sorry you did not listen to me a little bit more. You produced a very good show, for TV much better than I can recall on the subject. All those I suggested to you came across well and helped make what TV has lacked, an accurate historical record. But the departures from what I urged on you keep your show from being what I'd hoped for, a solid TV record for history that cannot be faulted behind the scenes in government where such things do happen and have significant impact. Gracie probably made attractive TV but she knew nothing and said what she had no way of knowing and was sometimes factually wrong. And you made heroes of two Judases, both of whom bear major responsibilities for the sad state of the case. In addition, Lane being as ignorant of fact as I told you, lied in saying that there had been no authority for test-firing the rifle. Judge Battle gave Arthur Hanes that right and Hanes did not do it. For Fauntroy to talk about his hope that the secrets locked away in the HSCA files, the only place any are locked, will be disclosed is sick. When he had the capability of investigating the crime he opted for a phony case of Ray's guilt. So, I'm sorry you did not do what was easily possible but I'm glad you did as well as you did. For current TV it was excellent. My regret is that it could so easily have been a real TV document and because it can be faulted so easily, it isn't. But thanks for doing as well as you did. In terms of informing the people it was quite good, what did not inform them accurately not being any liability in their understanding of the miscarriage save for the House assassins and the failed lawyer you made into a hero. It may, I hope, influence what the Brits are doing with Warner. Keep them from disagreeing on the facts of the crime.

I did not know that you had gotten any film of King's mountaintop speech. I have an audio tape and have already given that to Hood so the students can use it. I'd appreciate what you have on TV for the same purpose. I'll also appreciate it if you will be kind enough to give me a dub of your entire interview of me for the same purpose. If you'd prefer, please send whatever you can send to Dr. Gerald McKnight, History Dept., Hood College, Frederick, Md. 21702. Likewise if you have more on cassette on the interviews than you used. If you want any restriction, as I presume you would, please mark that clearly.

Best to Michelle. Glad you listed her as an assistant director rather than a researcher.

Best wishes,


Harold Weisberg