

10 January 1969

Dear Tom,

Thanks for your note of the 7th and the press clips from the Times-Ficayune. Leemans has reversed and retracted his stories so many times now that he has no entitlement to being taken seriously. Mort Sahl was on a local TV talk show three days ago and announced the sensational news of Leemans' latest version of truth, as if it had some immense value. Anything further on his attitude toward Makkelane? I was intrigued by your account of his Xmas party remarks.

I saw part of the funeral for George Lewis on the TV news and found myself quite touched by the music and the mournful faces, and by the whole tragedy of the American black man which was somehow evoked and encapsulated in that procession. I thought of you, of course, and wondered if he was not the man you had mentioned whose jazz you were studying. I am sorry for your loss.

A review copy of Flammonde's book arrived at the end of December and I spent a week struggling through it. I have done a review of it which I submitted to Commonweal, which only recently did a favorable review of Accessories and Six Seconds. It is, as you will have expected, a negative review: however much Flammonde protests that his book is objective, it is in fact saturated with pro-Garrison bias and absolutely uncritical. There are many errors in the book, too, like the whole business of "Mr. Farry," discussed at three different points: actually, there is nothing curious or suspicious since the Secret Service received a tip on Ferrie on 11/24/63, as would have been readily apparent if Flammonde had looked into the record more carefully. Not only does the book shed no new light but it will gull many people into taking seriously what is spurious and nonsensical.

Please stay in touch and feel free to call me collect if there are any exciting developments, especially during the trial.

All the best,