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Dear Messrs. Hantley and Brinkley,

I have had the remarkable experience tonight of hearing NBC's commercial lauding you two gentlemen for accuracy and non-pontification, and, presumably, for all the other virtues which attach to reputable news reporters, such as objectivity. These virtues were cited to ensure that the audience would rely on your coverage of the Republican National Convention -- forsaking all other networks.

My skepticism was reinforced because a scant hour earlier I had heard Mr. Brinkley report an item on Mark Lane and the Warren Commission which was a pastiche of innuendo, slanting, and misrepresentation. Mr. Brinkley said that Lane was called before the Warren Commission -- but in the first instance Lane had almost to punch down the Commission's door and force the offer of information down the Commission's throat, until they finally consented to hear him. That hearing, at Lane's specific request, was a public hearing -- and the only public hearing yet held by the Commission. I have heard Lane's lecture on the Oswald case, and read his brief (which not one newspaper or magazine would consent to publish with the sole exception of the National Guardian) and at no time did he ever claim that he had evidence in his possession other than the evidence announced by the FBI and the Dallas authorities (never mind that they changed the specifications of said evidence repeatedly -- five times, on the nature and number of the slugs). At no time did he claim anything except that his analysis of the inconsistencies, contradictions, and conflicts in the evidence proclaimed by the official agencies concerned showed that on the strength of their evidence Oswald did not commit the crime acting alone.

As to his "paid" lectures, is there really anything sinister or relevant in that? Do you two gentlemen provide us with your version of the day's news as a public service or for salary?

Thanks a lot, but I'll let another network inform me on the Republican Convention, as I am not yet persuaded of your self-proclaimed and self-advertised excellence.

Sceptically yours, in the hope that you will cease regarding the members of the listening public as village idiots,