

6 July 1967

Dearest Maggie,

Here are two copies each of my letter to WINS and of the reply from Larry Israel. I am sorry that I never sent you copies before. Apparently I had typed the letter on a Sunday morning, making only one carbon copy, and then reading to you on the phone. When you said that you too wanted to sign it, I added a final sentence to the original of the letter but not to the carbon. And when the answer arrived, I seem to have read it hastily and filed it away without making a copy for you. I think I did tell you the contents during one of our telephone conversations, but I can't be absolutely certain of that. Apparently, I also failed to send copies of this correspondence to Garrison himself, although at that time I was transmitting material of possible interest directly to him.

I have just typed copies, since I am away from the office xerox and would have to go uptown ~~to~~ get to a commercial copier, but apart from the typographical errors, the enclosed copies are exact (except for the ~~same~~ one sentence identified as merely approximate). One set is for you to keep; the other, for Bill Turner or for Garrison's records, if you think they should have this correspondence in New Orleans.

You have probably now received the copy of my letter to CBS. There are two errors in paragraph 2 on page 4. On line 6, the sentence should begin, "Some seven police patrols..." and on line 11 please delete "the district from which he reported at 12:54 p.m. nor". I had sent a copy of this letter to Bob Ockene, among others, and he just called, quite excited, asking me to send copies to various other news media or columnists not on my own distribution list. Bob feels that a wide circulation of this and similar letters is important because (and you may wish to mention this to Bill Turner, for whose book Bob Ockene is also the editor), as he pointed out, we are witnessing a ~~strange~~ strange and dangerous new phenomenon--the television networks are making news, in such "specials" as the NBC attack on Garrison and the CBS "inquiry" and the AP whitewash, and there is no system of checks-and-balances by which a different news outlet makes a critical evaluation of the TV-created news. Rather, it is left to entertainment critics like the TV/radio columns to make the judgment, although they lack the competence and the expertise on questions of substance. They are very vulnerable to distortions and inaccuracies in the exposition of evidence, since they are qualified to assess only the suspense, drama, and gimmickry with which the program seeks to attract and sustain the interest of the TV audience. (This is a paraphrase of what Bob Ockene said.)

I am so glad Annie responded well to the surgery. You sounded harrassed and weary, which I do not like to hear, and I hope that your social and domestic chores will ease off. I had expected (and almost feared) ~~that~~ that this "vacation" would find me idle, restless, and useless. So far, however, it has been very much like the two preceding "vacations," when there was enough activity and work to keep me busy from dawn to midnight, even without going to the office or having any UN work. One great pleasure and relief, which I just must share with you; my Susan has experienced the complete shift away from famine, with many calls and dates. But the best is that there is one particular chap, in his early thirties, who is becoming constant and whom she seems really to respond to, with all the familiar symptoms. I am exhilarated and hopeful...please let it go well. All my love dear, I do miss you and will call the minute there is anything to warrant disturbing you or taking you away from your guest. A non-WR guest, I take it. Critics should be protected from such distractions.