

12/20/66

Dear Sylvia,

Congratulations! I just heard the wonderful news from Maggie that Bobbs-Merrill will be publishing your book (I think the tentative title is very good; but perhaps a subtitle ~~word~~ would be helpful connecting it more specifically with the case). We are all delighted -- not only because you so richly deserve it, but also for the great contribution your manuscript will make to the growing bibliography of the case.

There was nothing really newsworthy to report about our lunch with Weisberg. Harold being Harold, a round-table discussion with him in attendance is actually more of a monologue. His idea of someone else dominating the conversation is when somebody tries to get a word in edgewise during his non-stop self-adulatory discourses.

I haven't gotten through Whitewash II yet, and I'm finding it quite a chore, even moreso than Whitewash I. Nevertheless, I feel both his books are goldmines of research material, and constitute an extremely valuable contribution, despite his turgid writing.

Sylvia, while it annoys me not a bit, you really are wrong in your assessment of my attitude towards Lane, as indicated by your feeling I would be angry at your criticism of his movie. While I'm sure history will accord him generally high marks, and I do consider his role a singular and heroic one, he certainly is not a personal hero of mine -- nor is anyone. I consider it an unfortunate fact that Lane -- the leading critic in the public's eyes -- is an advocate; with all that implies by way of hyperbole and out-of-context case ~~gr~~ building. I am also quite aware of the negative aspects of his relations and attitudes toward the rest of us. If I have taken exception to some of the attacks on Lane by other critics, its not at all because I feel a need to defend him personally, but primarily because I felt some of those attacks were, at least, unsupported -- and in some cases grossly inaccurate from a historical point of view.

I have sent you (several days ago) a publication copy of my #399 piece. I had sent about ~~xxxxxxx~~ two dozen out, to the critics and other individuals, by 4th class mail -- for reasons of economy. I certainly should have sent yours air mail, and apologize for not having done so. At any rate, you should have it by now.

Could you please send me the names and addresses of three or four of the more important Greenwich Village book stores, and, if possible, the buyers' names? Also, the names of the buyers * at Brentano's and Doubleday? I want to contact them about handling it (\$2.95 retail, \$1.80 wholesale) and will send them each a copy. If you should happen to know any of them personally, a prior phone call to them would be most helpful and appreciated.

The Mort Sahl weekly TV show -- which has really played a galvanizing role in turning the case on locally -- was abruptly cancelled last Friday. The station said it was because of low ratings, but almost everyone feels sure it was due to his heavy anti-Warren Report, anti-Government Vietnam coverage. He broke the news on his nightly ~~radio~~ radio ~~show~~ talk show Monday night, and an avalanche of protest hit the TV ~~xxx~~ station (KTTV), including pickets and a huge demonstration which had been scheduled for this afternoon around the station. The public reaction was so strong that an unprecedented thing happened -- KTTV reversed itself, discovered the latest ratings were quite high after all, and Sahl announced on radio last night that his TV show had been re-instated. It's the first time

in local radio-TV history that a ~~station~~ station was forced by public pressure to reverse itself on the cancellations of such a show, proving unmistakably that Sahl has really established communication with an important political following -- especially among a large number of college youth -- and that this victory is a very significant one here,

~~But~~ Bud Trilling of the New Yorker interviewed us here. He struck me as being perceptive, sincere, and able. We'll see ~~what~~ what they come out with.

I don't recall if I mentioned that Gretin Kerby graciously offered to run my Cohen rebuttal as a letter if I would cut it in half. I refused. ~~I~~ enclose for your edification his latest profundities.

Love,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Kerby', with a long, sweeping tail that curves downwards and to the right.