

5 January 1967

Dear Maggie, Ray, and Harold:

Sorry this has to be a fragmentary report on the resumed discussion last night with surely the foulest most evil and corrupt creature we are ever likely to encounter, Schiller. After talking to you, Maggie, and then to you, Harold, I had a two-hour briefing from Mr. Crane at KLAC, made 21 pages of handwritten notes. He asked me to hammer at Sch. on several main points--the \$ paid to the R. family; the missing 8 or 13 minutes of tape; the authenticity of the R. voice; the royalties. I scarcely had time to get to the station--accompanied by two huge gentlemen, who were of the most invaluable practical and moral support all evening, both being strongly on the side of the critics (Bill Crehan, whom you know, Maggie, and a new acquaintance, Dick Sprague, with whom Harold has corresponded and who proved to be a pillar of strength).

Sch. I am convinced carries eavesdropping equipment on his person; how else did he know that I intended to read over the air my 2-page letter to him of 12/4/66 disassociating myself from his "documentary" record on the grounds (among others) that I was convinced after the 4-hour interview I gave him that his record could not and would not present the critics' case coherently, effectively, or objectively. One other way he could have known--he may have my phone and/or apartment bugged. I would not put it past him at all.

He was as vicious and filthy a liar as I have ever encountered or even imagined. In the course of falsely attributing to me a statement which implied that I was drooling in anticipation of the \$ I would make from my book, he lost his head sufficiently to announce that Lewis had taped his telephone call to me on the night of 1/2/67. Barry Gray (the host) immediately said that was actionable. Sch. said it was taped with my knowledge. I said that was a lie. He then said there was a beep on the line that I must have heard. I said that there was no beep and it was a complete lie.

When I raised the question of the \$ paid to the R. family, he refused to say how much, saying that it was the family's option to disclose. He admitted that the K. Library had refused to accept the royalties; could not say what disposition would be made of them; Barry Gray pointed out that if 200,000 cc. of the records were sold there would be \$20,000 for the R. family; Sch. said that was vastly inflated. He would not say whether or not he was in the room; he said the leftover tape was in vault and would be made available to the Warren Com. then added and to anyone. Said he had made a voice print which proved that it was R.'s voice on the secret tape.

Kunstler attacked the record as a whole as blatantly biased against the critics, full of innuendo and slanderous statements. Sch. had been forced to admit the first night (1/3/67) that the record was "subjective" and he continued to attack the critics for questioning the credibility and probity of the WC. "Ambassador" Henry J. Taylor who was not present on the 1/3/67 broadcast was added to the roster 1/4/67; as you know he is a senile horror who announces as if proven fact that Castro was behind it all, using LHO as his tool and agent. He was a real help! But even he and Sch. got into a fracas; I certainly "lost my cool" but Kunstler said this morning (out of kindness more than candor, I know) that I had been very effective against Sch. and that my anger was recognizably genuine, etc. I know I was NOT effective--I cannot get down to his unspeakably obscene level. Sch. and Barry Gray also got into a fracas, when Gray advised me that the admission of having taped the telephone call was actionable and to see my lawyer in the morning. After the program was over, Gray started to say that Sch. was the most evil fink--and through the door Sch. burst, I swear, he has eavesdropping gimmicks in his pockets--he made demands for the tape, but Gray told him firmly he could get it in the morning and not before.

Originally we were supposed to be on the air from 11 pm to midnight and I was then to call Crane to be live on beeper phone on the Mort Sahl programme; but when I arrived at the studio I learned we were to be on until 12:30 a.m. not 12; and by the time I could get to a phone, Sahl was almost ready to go off the air, so we could not connect. They may try again tonight, from my apt.

Toward the end of the discussion, Taylor issued a torrent of exaggerated adulating praise of the FBI, SS, Postal Inspection Service, etc. in the most hyperbolic terms you can imagine. Schiller leaped in to support him, and to attack Harold, reading the subtitle of Whitewash II and saying righteously "What's the kind of man Weisberg is!" Harold, I am afraid he questions your patriotism. Several times during the discussion he called Penn Jones "paranoic." He slandered every critic repeatedly, especially Mark Lane--and quoted Lane as saying that he had illegally taped telephone calls, and so had the other critics, all of them (this is only my recollection and may not be entirely accurate and I don't have a tape because Bill who usually tapes was with me in the studio) --as justification for Lewis having taped his conversation with me! Incredible. Unbelievable. How can there be such filth and evil?

After consultations this morning, including advice from Kunstler, I have decided not to sue on the taping. It would tie me up in litigation and take me off the case and would not be worth it. That is the general feeling, and my own feeling. I would like to do it only if I could be sure that it would prevent others from falling victim to such violations of their rights; but there is little chance that I could even accomplish that much.

Why I have not yet collapsed, I don't know--maybe just plain outrage and rage at the depths of human degradation in the form of Sch. and the need not to give one inch to such monsters. I am sorry I can't go further into detail--my recollections are so uncertain on the remainder of the "discussion" and I am so behind on my desk work at the office, I hope this will do for the time being.

I think all the critics on the record have been befouled and most inexcusably maligned; I hope they as individuals or as a group will do everything possible to counteract the vicious dirty innuendo and distortion on the disc; and to show up these monstrous vermin for what they are.

Love to you each and all,
Hastily,

P.S. I did get in one good one but I am not sure it was on mike: At one point all the other panelists and the host were chanting in unison that Ruby could not possibly have been part of any conspiracy, look how unpredictable and random the phone-call, the length of his wait at Western Union, etc.; and, they asked rhetorically "Is there ANYONE less likely to be selected by any conspirators than Jack Ruby?" Yes, I said, wryly--Oswald. But, as I say, I am not sure it was on mike or on the tape.