

September 7, 1967

Dear Hal:

I just completed a lengthy discussion with former colleague Roger Grimsby of KGO-TV here; at one time he and I were in heated difference in general, about the JFK matter in particular.

Roger is not nearly so dogmatic about the critics' contentions nowadays; I think opportunity, even survival, has him entertaining the possibility that the smoke has flames below.

Whatever, he asked me to schedule you on his PAGE ONE SHOW, which is pre-taped a week in advance. I agreed. We're in.

I have begun my move towards Peter Jennings in New York; what I am aiming at in the beginning is a private give-and-take session between you two in the immediate future. I am thinking about setting up this gettogether before or after your Philadelphia trip on the 19th (?).

Should Jennings see the light, then the big job begins; and it would be his, alone: To sell Management on the propriety and profitability of airing the other side. I think the kid has the stuff to do it. All that remains, then, is for me to get your mouth in the door, and for him to like your smile and style.

I would, whatever, like to get you in the position of being THE authority on the New Orleans matter before and during the trial. Should Jennings miss us or vice versa, then my approach would revert back here to KGO-TV. Grimsby feeds more stuff to the network than any other non-staff net correspondent; while you're here doing the other show, it would be just as practical for him to interview you on the New Orleans aspects of the controversy, as they will relate to the various aspects of the coming trial, then feed them back to the net on successive days during the trial proceedings. It would be a coup to end them all for ABC, especially if Garrison gives you a sound public validation before the trial starts.

Which brings me to that particular matter: The only way Garrison can serve both your purposes is to let the press and public, alike, know that the New Orleans book is the only "blueprint" available, that it is MUST reading for those really concerned. This should and must be done at a time when the news media cannot avoid this reference: At a joint news conference, just before the trial.

Your reference to going down to New Orleans to pose with Garrison (and the book) will look to the news media as pure mercenary collusion between you two. They would more than likely whack this part out of any network feed material or wire copy.....unless it occurred just as the trial got underway. Think about this a bit more.

Cooke will be in New York on the 20th, will discreetly inquire about the distribution possibilities. Incidentally, Mayer DOES NOT control this sphere of their corporation apparatus.

Haven't been to the post office this morning yet, so no idea on your response to my proposals. Time's awastin'.

My best to your co-chickenplucker.

Best Personal Regards,



John