

1/31/68

Dear Jon,

Why you didn't pay attention to me I do not know. I do know that it may be costly to me. When you phoned and told me that ABC was retrenching and your contacts there had no knowledge of my coming I told you to please leave them alone and not mention this. This is and never was any doubt about the specific arrangement. Do Gold phoned me at least twice. He first wanted me for the Saturday after my return then decided to postpone it to see if he could get a Commission lawyer to oppose me. He asked who and I suggested Bell and Liebler. He called back and said that pressed him to tightly and gave me a choice of two February Saturdays. I picked the third. It was just as specific as it could be. I then wrote letters to a number of people to have them make other arrangements to coincide.

Once you told me they were retrenching, I knew what kept Gold silent, and that is why I told you to keep hands off. It is now quite a mess, for no good reason. With the local situation he faced, Gold had to lie. With me there he hardly could. Now you have him committed to a lie and there is little chance he'll back out. He'll now maintain that it was indefinite. There was nothing indefinite about it.

Meanwhile, look at the situation I was already in when you phoned. I and others acting for me had made a number of arrangements for me. I have to keep them. What happens if I don't? Need I ask you. I'd never get another shot from any of these people.

Also, because there was no doubt about it, I had some time ago booked the flight to be certain I'd get there on time. Last week I changed my tickets to stop off in Chicago. The travel agency has already billed \$600 which is the arrangement I had made with Gold. I asked him if he wanted to get the tickets and send them to me or if he'd prefer this. I told him the agency was run by a friend of mine and he would bill direct because I didn't have the cash to put out. He said do that, and I did. He also said he'd have a hotel room for me the night of 2/3.

What this amounts to is about \$280 in fare, \$16.00 in car mileage and about \$6.00 of the cost of parking my car at the airport. It is money I just do not have and my arrangements with Canyon, made when I heard from Gold, is that this part of the expense they'd not have to pay. They thereupon agreed to my return to where I had been. Now what do I do if they say no? If they do not, it is still \$60 my cost.

Also, in order to keep this promise, I had to turn down the Mark exposure, which I very much need.

If I hadn't, specifically, told you to leave it alone, does not your own experience tell you to keep hands off in a situation like this?

I have to rush to get to ~~at~~ town to get other things in the outgoing mail and get Lil some groceries. The rest of your letter will have to wait until I get out there, which is as I told you unless there is an unexpected delay in Chicago.

January 24th

Dear Hal:

We've got problems out here in regards your arrangements with KGO-TV; The cutbacks have taken their toll.

Don Gold is no longer Producer of Jim Dunbar's Saturday Night Show - and he is the one who (tentatively he now says) proposed the subsidy/sponsorship. I spoke with him yesterday and he flat-out said that they (KGO-TV) would and could not pay your freight out here, etc., but would be interested in scheduling on the AM Show IF you came out on your own. Integrity (or lack of it) aside, the ITT bomb-out is the core reason.

We're back to other methods of subsidizing your travels, then. My people are on the verge of going with me -- if I don't push too hard; this is so touchy a subject that ambivalence is automatically inherent; events, however, are becoming so completely indicative of their jeopardy that they know standing still could well be disastrous.

We now have the good Professor Thompson on public record admitting that he has "worked on the shoulders" of previous researcher-writers; while he privately feigns a know-nothing attitude about having read your works in detail, he none-the-less inadvertently admitted knowing Harold Weisberg's original theorems, chapter and verse. Verb was there when I led him to admittals. I will record the soundtrack from Dolan's show for future evidential proof.

Whatever else Thompson is, he is a credible, thoughtful, methodical presenter of this subject for absorption by that vast as-yet-lay audience of curious sheep; let me rationalize by saying that every convert he produces is a potential, eventual buyer of Harold Weisberg's works. (I firmly believe this, incidently.) (I also believe him a FINKO!)

Thompson's approach is really that of his Editor-publisher Advisors: Forget the idea of force-feeding the general public straight spice; offer them some vanilla, with a small chunk of cayenne in each bite. It's intellectually dishonest, but expedient as hell. It's another means to an (the) End, to hell with academic ethics.

I just finished listening to Thompson on Dunbar's (now) morning radio show. Unlike the Dolan TV & radio appearances, he offered the following: That the Johnson administration assuredly would not re-open the investigation; that he would have to be turned out of office before the truth could be known; that one of the opposition candidates should make the re-opening a Major campaign issue in '68. (Shades of Garrison's Century Plaza speech!) As I said, he is the creature of his Advisors, who fully intend to make political hay out of this scandal. Nelson WHO???!!! (THINK about that one.)

Let's stay in this vein for a second: Jess Unruh said (via wire service this AM) that he "would remain non-committal untillllllllll Senator Kennedy declared HIS intentions!!!".....

Page #2 - Weisberg

I heard (from a reliable source) that Kennedy's response to a reporter's radio interview (when he was here in San Francisco a while back) was "I don't talk about that!" This was in response to his opinion about Garrison's investigation. Perhaps some of the barriers (his advisors) have been removed in the interim; perhaps Unruh did deliver the copies of your letters to him a few months back, as I was assured he had done.

Just spoke with Paul Hoch; he tells me that the Honorarium is set with the ASUC group for Noon on February 5th; it carries a \$50 award, too.

Back to my original premise: You'd better get the who's-paying-for-what straightened out with KGO-TV; if you go ahead and bill the trip to them under the circumstances it will blow us out of the water in my current discussions about the Network shot; I know the way these people operate; they're petty beyond all imagination.

If I don't hear from you by Wednesday, I'll call Frederick that night; my best to Lil, will seek alternate subsidy also.

Best Personal Regards,

Jonn

