

12/3/67

Dear Maggie,

I'd been intending to solicit your opinion on the enclosed. Part of the people on the Pyne staff wanted a confrontation, others felt it would lead to confusion. I agreed to whatever they decided.

When they decided against having Liebeler, or asking him, I made this proposal to them. They agreed, whether or not they will feel the same way in the future.

I doubt if Liebeler will agree. But if he does, I think he'll either back down and oppose any airing or he will do as I think by now he must realize sooner or later he must. I have no high opinion of him, but I detect in him a survival instinct more developed than in any other and, I am confident, a compulsion to self-justification.

Should he (or any other member of the staff), come forth with a public statement that, upon examining the evidence on the other side, he is satisfied that the expected job has not been done and must still be, I think we have something the like of which we have not yet achieved.

Since my return, I have listened to two more tapes of his appearances, the one at Stanford and the one with Sylvia (who came through to me in a different light when I heard what she did and didn't do), Sauvage, Copkin, McDonald and Robert Silvers as moderator, in New York in the Fall of 1966. I think it was at what is called the Theater For Ideas. Well, in each case, I see the things I note above plus an incredible willingness to improvise.

If he should accept, I'll need a few days to prepare, excerpt his tapes, make notes of what to raise, etc. While I think the odds are greatly against it, I do think it is a more than fair offer to him. Please let me have your opinion as soon as you can, for after the airing of the Pyne show in Washington 12/10 is when I'd like to write. Please feel free to make any recommended changes on the face of this rough draft, or add anything you'd like. Perhaps you might talk to the others about it. Also, if the Pyne people change their minds, we might want to speak to Art.

Hastily,