

7/7/72

Dear Bill,

For some reason much of my mail lately has been delayed. All that came yesterday except two manilla envelopes were over a week going short distances. So, this apology for delay in answering your kind and thoughtful note of the 30th. It juts came!

Glad the show got so lingering a reaction. The most important thing is that the people think. Without that they can't understand. Without understanding, representative society can't work. So, in addition to being a nice guy, you do a good job.

I took the liberty of making my high opinion of the show and you and of the reaction that was reported to me of the spill-over onto other stations known to the people who sales rep you, where I know someone. Maybe at some time and in some way it will help you and or the station.

I do not hide from you my regret that you found it necessary to include Stoner. From your point of view this was quite justified. From mine it would have been better if you'd had him separately. Airing what you aired is responsible, is more than a good show, is what the people need to see and know. The unfortunate result, however, is that other things that should and could have been said were not and that I got tarred with the Stoner brush, with unfortunate results. I'd arranged for some law students to do some volunteer work that could have been helpful to justice and to them. They'd have gotten great experience from it. But when they saw me with Stoner and heard what he said...

This is not criticism of you. The situation was one in which our interests conflicted. I think that particularly under the most difficult circumstances you did a perfectly magnificent job. I don't think anyone could have been more gentle with, more considerate of or more responsible with Stoner than you were. The result was a self-exposure that I think could have been enticed no other way. Only the few unfortunates who believe his way to begin with will not have been permanently turned off. In itself, this is a praiseworthy thing. You have it and my respect for what you did. It was in every way a great job and a considerable public service.

Jerry, by the way, is less than a Stoner, though they associate. He seems to have disappeared, which worries me. If you have heard from him since he had a temporary address at Box 137, West Chicago, Ill., I'd appreciate knowing. He said he was arranging a semi-permanent address and when he was settled I'd hear. It has been more than a month. I gave him the name of a trusted reporter friend to contact and he hasn't.

No, I did not get the audio tape and I'd still like it, please. Any kind will do. If it presents no problem for your people, cassette would be most convenient for me. But I can also play reels to 7" and speeds 1 7/8 to 7 1/2.

Thanks again. Hope the occasion comes when we can do it again.

Sincerely,





4935 Lindell Blvd.  
St. Louis, Mo. 63108  
314-367-7211

June 30, 1972

Dear Harold -

I do hope you will pardon my delay in answering your May 13<sup>th</sup> letter but, like you, I have been busy as hell.

I did want to tell you that the reaction to the show in which you appeared was just slightly this side





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to "sensational" the  
"guy out there in the  
street" is still the same  
name.

Personally, I must  
admit that I was im-  
pressed w/ your presenta-  
tion. Did I send you an  
audio tape? If not, will  
and you shall receive.

Please stay in touch —  
Tom Finkle