

Lane - 12 my

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
2/20/78

Mr. Philip Geyelin
Editorial Page Editor
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Wash., D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Geyelin,

Your excellent editorial "Fact/Fiction on Television" asks, "Why anyone thought such tinkering with the story of Rev. King was needed is beyond us." in saying

Among the reasons obvious to a subject expert is to say other than the facts say, which is true of the three so-called "docu-dramas" dealing with the political assassinations. All say what is not true and could not be said in a straight documentary. It is t his Orwellian, regardless of what may have been in the commercializing minds.

In the Abby Mann rewriting of history his sources are as apparent as are those characters who opposed his approach. Those to whom Mann is indebted appear larger than their tall statures in real life. Those who opposed him are written down and out. (I understand that after a dispute with Rev. Ralph Abernathy Mann threatened to eliminate that part entirely.)

Without this Mann would have been reduced to repeating the work of others. Without permission and crediting that is plagiarism. With crediting the Mann/s who know better than the truth have ego problems with themselves.

In revising the actualities of the King assassination Mann/a totality of imperfection that is not explained by his ripping off of long-time friend and associate, like-minded Mark Lane. In Lane's commercialization ripping off did not meet his ego needs. He had to improve upon truth. Thus a new and thanks to Mann and NBC more widely disseminated fabrication, that the FBI assassinated Dr. King. Mann's "improvement" of Lane's "fact" extended even to the scene of the crime, locale and characters alike. achieved

The Mann/NBC infidelity is not accidental. Both were forewarned. Neither bothered to learn the truth.

This gets back to why there was "tinkering with the story of Rev. King."

If one is limited to fact and reason one has no basis for even suspecting that the FBI killed or was responsible for killing Dr. King. The FBI's failures and offenses lie in other directions.

But with a six-figure advance for the Lane book and \$5,000,000 in the Mann "docu-drama," who can say that fooling Mother Truth does not pay?

Sincerely,

Three commercial TV networks, three
"docu-dramas", three rewritings
of history and fact.

Harold Weisberg