

5/14/77

Dear Paul,

I have the Lifton-Jerry Ray show tape so if you catch this do not bother making a dub for me. This was a Phil Donahue show.

Wakeford-Orloff is lucky to have broken off from him. Lifton knew he was doing the libellous and modified it enough to avoid an overt libel. With anyone other than Jerry Ray I think he might not have succeeded.

I am certain Lane will never file a suit for Jerry, unless he perceives that it can promote his book. If so he'll file and talk but do nothing.

It appears that Lane also picked the Murtaugh stuff up from the Cohen-Lifton work, that part more likely Cohen's but not necessarily so. Lifton could have come across it in his researches for W-O.

Lifton knew the content of Lane's book quite some time before it was out. He goes into it on this show, which was taped by the middle of April. Freed has the same line in his stuff as it appeared in the other paper. Same title, in fact, to begin with.

It is clear that whatever his researches and for all his interviews Lifton knows little about the case itself, either what did happen or the investigation of it. When he tells about the FBI's investigation it appears to come from the representations of the NYTimes and what a DJ public-relations man told him.

I'd taped the Lou Gordon show Thursday, probably for a couple of weeks from now. He was in Chicago yesterday. He called me for some help but I was not home.

Best,