

April 1, 1972

Mr. J. Marshall Wellborn
Assistant General Counsel
National Broadcasting Co., Inc.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10020

Dear Mr. Wellborn,

Thank you very much for your very fair letter of the 30th and for a reasonable statement of policy.

Understandably, for you cannot be aware of all that is involved, and entirely aside from the matter of the rights of James Earl Ray, you take too restrictive a view in describing this subject now as no more than "the subject of Martin Luther King's assassination." It is well past that point in many areas and a number of other and I think important national issues are now involved.

I think it likely that your programming, show and news people also may not recognize this if the lawyer doesn't.

I have followed this matter with care and with the expenditure of considerable time and effort, continuing it after publication of my book more than a year ago. (It is no longer current in sales.) I am certain there is nobody else who can be in a position to present the other side in the various issues involved.

"Rebut", your word, may not be precisely accurate. Your final paragraph is closer. It is the full airing that I think we agree is significant. Although I have no book to sell thereby and he does, should NBC's plans change, if you make it possible I would be happy to appear with Mr. Frank to present the other side on these issues and, as he has asked, to speak for Mr. Ray. With what I hope you will understand is not unfriendly intent, I tell you what is not generally known. Mr. Ray did not plead guilty to doing the shooting and he denies having done it.

Should you, as a lawyer, have any interest in how justice worked in this case, NBC has many copies of my FRAME-UP. I, personally, supplied at least a half-dozen copies to your Washington office.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.

THIRTY ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10020, CIRCLE 7-8300

March 30, 1972

J. MARSHALL WELLBORN
Assistant General Attorney

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I have been asked to answer your letter to Julian Goodman dated March 18, 1972 concerning the book entitled "An American Death".

NBC has no present plans to air any programs involving Gerold Frank or his book "An American Death". Accordingly, there is no need for us to consider at this time your request to be permitted to rebut any of Mr. Frank's views on NBC facilities.

As you may know, NBC recognizes an obligation, when it covers a controversial issue of public importance, to provide programming which ventilates all significant viewpoints on that issue. For this reason, although we cannot at this time promise you that we will ask you to discuss your theories on NBC, we will keep your letter in mind whenever we cover the subject of Martin Luther King's assassination in the future.

Sincerely yours,



J. Marshall Wellborn

JMW:cs