Dear Jim, Lesar

11/23/83

If you heard the Pacifica program laat night you know what happened. My enclosed letter to them tells you all I know. It does not provide any explanation and I cannot. I'm inclined to the least conspiratorial view, that the moderator Adler had her own preconceptions and prejudices and merely indulged them as she would not have dared if it had not been rigged so that I could not be heard. This and their lies about it do make me wonder because it is entirely abnormal within my experience. Their engineers did do it. But maybe they are just incompetent.

In any event, I beame aware of what was in store bit by bit and only after the program was on the air and it did anger me. But more I was outraged at such treatment that, on the face, appears to have been contrived. If there is no doubt that Schlossman was aware and responsible, again there is a possible simple explanation: he was just afraid to assert himself with a runaway moderator of obvious projudice and an open mike. (I sure would like to know more about her because it is so atypical for programs that like something hot and particularly for the freewheeling and usually irresponsibly sensational Pacifica.

The feeling of outrage persistend and kept me from falling asleep until after an hour or more abed I decided to take a valium. Fortunately, I still had a few and in time it worked. I selpt through the rest of the night, got a little over four hours sleep and made the day, albeit a little wearily. I cut the therapy to two hours and I guess that did not increase the weariness.

Much of it was inaudible to me and what I did hear is of little significance, as little appeared to be relevant. Summers was not irrelevant in what I could hear of what he said about Mexico, but I've read enough of him not to be willing to accept what he says without independent corroboration and I do not seen any of that as immediately possible. I do want to hear all of it and if I get the promised tape I'll listen to it during therapy mornings.

I'm sending copies to Hoch, Donner and Melanson, with notes. I'm sure Hoch will tell Scott. Ss I told both H and M, I was surprised at his and Scott's silence, at their failure to demand to hear the rest. Again, I don't know why. If I'd been there and they on the phone, you can be sure I'd have made a forceful demand that they be heard. But if not fear or reluctance, perhaps egos took over.

It is not easy to believe that there was a tap on my phone for this nor is it easy to believe that relays stuck for so long, so I don't know.There was no point in any tap for this when it was being aired, unless there may have been some interest in any private conversations.

So, I have no real explanations and can think of nothing that satisfies me.

I'd turned down a number of broadcasts, including two yesterday. However, when I was so keyed up and knew I'd not be able to sleep, I phoned one I knew would run at least until 11 (it ran longer) and spent about 45 minutes on it. That station is clear channel and covers much of the east. I was on the phone with a caller from Florida. (Pittsburg's KDKA, country's first station.) This, of course, also shows the spuriousness of WBAI's claim. KDKA did not have to make any special arrangements, didn't even know I'd call after declining. It is the normal arrangement. Because WBAI has had so many talk shows, I also find it difficult to believe that they have not had such normal installations. So, it's a mystery.

Nobody phoned me about it. Perhaps the audience was that small?

I'm not going to go out of my way but when I have the opportunity I'm going to say what Pacifica cut off. I did last night on KDKA and I hope some of it gets back and is embarrassing. It should be....If you can learn without difficulty or taking time who this Margot Adler can be, I'm interested because what she did cannot be ignored and assumed to be only personal and because it is so unique. Best,