August 20, 1969

Dear Dick,

I can get you a Z film copy for $10 and what I will do is send one in the next two weeks and then you can send a chekk after you get it. Please keep the source cinfidential. It's origin is a LIFE copy (not in my possession) and it is somewhere between 6th and 8th generation I think. I have shown it publicly to large audiences and several others have shown it to small audiences. Vince Salandria has shown it in an avant garde theater in Phila. In addition, someone, I supposed Bill Turner, got it shown on a TV show in San Francisco just prior to the Shaw trial. So far there have been no bad consequences. I assumed that you had received a copy (I am getting them for people but am not the original procurer or distributor) and never thought to write you abott it.

I saw the piece in LOOK, which didn't surprise me given that it was a Cowles publication and the author was a friend of Wegmann's, and felt it was very biased. The thing which was a surprise was that it was so illogical and therefore quite a contrast to the Epstein type of smear. It has always amazed me that my newspaper series was commissioned and published by a major Cowles paper back in 1966-67, although it is worthy of note that by the time half of the series ran I was informed that they would never want anything from me again under any circumstances, so perhaps it slipped through.

I am still working steadily on the case, and my committee of researchers is increasing in size and ability. I now have a housewife who knows the volumes extremely well. Those of us like myself, Harold Weisberg, Paul Hoch, Jim Schmidt, etc. were not too effected by the trial since we had been goigg full steam before Jim ever came along and continued to do so right through the trial. The other critics either used Jim's investigation as a change to rest or an excuse to stop, or came along after he began and thus were very tied to what he was doing. It is not hard to see why people reacted to it so differently from a psychologic point of view in the critic community.

I now can get prints made for the cost of the paper so If I can do anything for you along those lines please inform me. Also, I still have a darkroom technician who is pretty skillful and a professional with new methods fomm bringing out detail who can do some useful things with negatives. I would like veyy much to borrow negatives to make copies of photos I don't have, and at the same time I could do any work you might suggest, or make you a copy of each for the price of the paper. Do you have any parts of the Nix, Muchmore, Martin fil (not from DCA, but from original), Bell, or Hughes films?

As for what I have been up to this summer, some investigating and some school work. I expect to go to Kansas City and then Dallas during the first two weeks of August, so If there is anything I can do for you there, just ask. Right now I am studying for all I am worth for PhD prelims which I will take the week of Sept.22-26. They are really tough and I am way behind.

Well, best wishes. Write if you get a chance and tellm me what you think about the possibility of my borrowing negatives for a week at a time.

Regards,

Dave