

2/20/68

Dear Russ,

My trip was taxing, successful and ended with a tremendous stack of mail. My catching up is delayed by an injury to my wife the day after my return, which necessitates that I look after her and also do her work. I'm trying to work around the clock tonight to catch up.

I've not had a chance to contact Mrs. Drewry. I'll not be able to go to Washington for two weeks, and next week I'm too busy here with one of Garrison's men to invite her up. It'll have to wait. I'll keep you posted.

You report what I have learned from the peace people. They haven't thought their issue out, really do not understand it and particularly do not really understand the basics. The two things are inseparable.

I wrote Lynd on Sally Belfrage's suggestion, told him so, and sent him a copy of WHITEMASH. He was not then in Vietnam.

These people are also a little troubled by their consciences, for they, many of them, do have a gut understanding they fear articulating.

If your California people were on the alert they should have done much business. I did two all-night shows, another that lasted three hours, a larger number that went for one or more, and I cannot tell you how many in all, radio and TV. They really missed something, for there were seven people who phoned me with visible information and leads, including participants. If they didn't follow me and I didn't even bother to check if they were-they missed even more!

Again, many thanks.

Hurriedly,

Harold Weisberg

What happened to Paul?

February 4, 1968

Dear Harold,

Just a note to tie up some loose ends from our conversation the other night.

I'm very skeptical and suspicious about the phone call you received that day from Mrs. Drewry. As I pointed out in our conversation, I tend to be more paranoid about these things than some people, but it just seems to be too coincidental that the woman would have called on the same day we were meeting, particularly since I had discussed our meeting over the phone with Paul Fanning and several other people, so it's not unlikely that interested parties knew about it. I'm not suggesting that there's anything tremendously sinister about it, but I think it may have been an effort to find out what I had talked to you about, since obviously that name is one of the things I could have told you. I would be interested to find out, if you know, what time of the day it was when your wife received the call.

I've spoken to several people about the possibility of marketing your books through one of the peace groups here in Chicago, and the reaction has been fairly negative. The reason is that they feel that ~~xxx~~ even having the books on a table, offered for sale, at meetings and other functions amounts to showing support for raising the assassination question. And since a great number of people, particularly middle and upper-middle class white liberals feel that the questions raised about the assassination are ghoulish and in bad taste, they're afraid that for every book they sell they may alienate two or three other people. This is, of course, a narrow view, but the best that we can hope to do is ~~xxxx~~ work to broaden these peoples' outlooks, and that is not a short-term undertaking. Even Staughton Lynd, who is somewhat radical, feels a little uneasy about the assassination question. He thinks that it's right to raise the question, and he thinks that you and Garrison are going in the right direction, but he can't see it as being in any way related to his main concern, which is the peace movement. In short, it's just too hot and too controversial for them.

I spoke with Lynd this evening, by the way, about the fact that you had written him and never heard from him. He said he doesn't recall ever having gotten a letter from you, and that it probably came when he was involved with things related to his visit to North Viet Nam, during which time he failed to pay close attention to much of his mail.

I've check the booklet on Viet Nam that we were talking about, and I find that Robert Scheer cites as his source for the information on Colonel Lansdale of the CIA being one of the prime movers in our Viet Nam commitment, THE Invisible Government.

That's all from here now. Hope to hear from you again soon.


Russ Trunzo