

11/24/66

Dear Mel and Paul,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to Richard Billing at LIFE that perhaps, if he calls you, you can use to extend an invitation to the taping, if this is in your interest. I left it vague enough not to commit you to anything.

If it is not asking too much, would you please send a Xerox of the Variety piece on the show (11/16) to my agent in England, Mr. Gordon Harbord, 53 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2? Thanks.

Looking forward to seeing you. And Paul, if you have no other necessities, may we have dinner together the night of the fifth (or both if Mel would like)?

For your information only, I had a couple of telephone conversations with Wilduff, who is in New York until the end of next week. He now sees and understands some things he didn't just a few days ago. He says he will want to see me the week of the 5th, when he returns to Washington (where his office is in the Commonwealth Bldg., 1625 K. St., NW), but that will not be easy. I am not suggesting that you ask him to participate in the taping (I'd not be so presumptuous and I'd not consider it worthwhile). I am suggesting that after the show is taped he and you may find parallel interests.

I have heard nothing about it from Salisbury since you sent him the ms. I plan to try and see him the fifth. I have heard nothing from Gould. Merriman Smith has declined my challenge to a Press-Club debate and ignored the next one, to debate in writing in any publication of his choosing. The Washington Post this morning carries a rather belated correction of the basic error of his piece, an error that cannot be rectified by the alteration of a sentence. They have not carried the letter I wrote that they received four days ago.

I would very much appreciate knowing the composition of the panel as soon as possible so I can be prepared.

Sincerely,