

Phone call from Barbara Elman, 12/19/73 about 7 p.m.

Earlier in the day, about 2, Jim Lesar had phoned me to say that a person of this name, connecting herself with the producers of Executive Action, had called him to ask about the King assassination, the import being they were considering a movie like it on this assassination. He told her I had done all the work and the name of my book and how to get in touch with me. He also told her about Jim's legal work.

To me she identified herself as with Garry Horowitz, said he was the producer and their company is Wakefield-Orloff, in L.A., 212/461-2771.

She asked me who besides me knew anything about the subject. I said only Jim, and his knowledge of fact was of my fact, that I had done the investigating and he had done the legal work. I explained that he had not yet taken his bars when he started doing this legal work, that his assorted briefs are now before the 6th circuit and on the way to the Sup. Ct. I told John's story, of my finding out what happened to him and Jim doing the legal inquiry and now to go to Sup Ct with it. I explained that neither of us had any pay or income while doing this work and suggested it was unusual that two men without income engaged in such a work. Told her I got Bud as Ray's counsel, etc. And of my investigations, tapes, etc. Pictures. Court records. Foreman, Haey and Frank.

When she explained what they are looking into, I told her I had to explain my attitudes and beliefs, esp. re Ex Act. Told her I had declined to see film after reading book because of its pretensions and doctrine, that I had no objection to any kind of novel or movie that was presented as fiction but strong resentment to false pretense that this was based on fact when it wasn't and was opposed to fact as known. I said I'd be happy to be associated with a serious work that did not abuse fact, if I were properly paid, but would not permit my work to be used in any other kind of work. She asked if there were anyone else and I said only Jim. She indicated that her people had an opinion of Lane and Freed like mine and I ~~was~~ was specific in expressing high opinion Trumbo, mentioning his early work with which she was unfamiliar. So, we seemed to be in accord on integrity matters. She asked if I had other memos and I said I did but because they were prepared for legal uses the lawyers should decide whether others could see, that I had no objection but believe we should conform to proprieties in legal matters. Told her to call Jim and I would agree to what he said (I then phoned him before she could and told him).

I told her there was what I described as negative evidence that was solid only and I did not go into conjectures.

She asked if I have any plans for being out there soon and I said no and explained why. Said I could if repaired, but they would still be taking my work, that I couldn't transport all I have, but I'd be willing, although I thought best here.

Also when we were talking told her I thought I could deliver other potential film properties. She seemed interest in a new Citizen Kane and Everything Happened, which I described as non-fiction blend Mr. Baldings Builds... and The Egg and I. She knew of latter. Suggested my other work had similar potential.

Told her I was going to DC today to be working with Jim and if we were not at his office could be reached through Buds.

My impression is opposite Bob Smith's, but he apparently had no basis for the length of conversation we had. It is that they would be interested in serious work. I suggested to her that a serious one could also be a commercial one by the standards of the movies of the past, those with which I was familiar.

We'll see.