

NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701:::301/473-8186

3/1/68

Dear Steve,

Your letter postmarked 2/29 made very good time, considering you addressed it incorrectly and it went to our previous residence first. The night crew of the post office phoned me to tell me of it and another special delivery, so I drove in and picked them up.

I suppose I'll never lose my sense of outrage, that because I try and treat people honorably I am aghast when they do otherwise with me. This, really, is the major reason I lost my cool as I should not have- this and the fact that Pyne was so decent on the TV show. And I was much too tired. I get along fine on four hours sleep, and I can work around the clock if all I do is work. But having done an all-night show, I was much too tired and I couldn't hold myself. Also, I really wasn't thinking. I must assume my share of the blame.

If I had it to do over again, it would come out differently, and for the others in a way neither would likely forget soon.

But there is no question about it, the thing that really crippled me was my feeling that two men I trusted would behave so indecently, would dream of airing slanders without even checking them out.

Several times I considered going after Pyne. I should have. He could have been no more crooked. Every time I was about to I recalled that his is the only syndicated TV show on which I was ever given a fair opportunity to present evidence to the people and utterly despicable as I found what he was then doing, I could not. So, I just got awful mad, which is okay if you're doing it with clubs, but not if it is with words.

But it is no less than corrupt to take a psychopathic liar like Butler who is incapable of distinguishing between fact and what he wants to have been fact and then add Pyne's false pretense of impartiality. It is child's play to lacerate Butler with whatever he chooses to use if there is impartiality, for he neither knows nor cares what he talks about and twists, distorts and lies without conscious effort. It is even easier if one were to go into his record, which, as you know from the past, is not the way I think truth will be established.

I accept your explanation and thank you for it. I am sorry about the wrongful accusation. I think you can see how clear it seemed, from my side. Thanks you for writing.

Incidentally, I did go to some trouble and expense to try and line up Garrison and other responsible things for you, as I promised, and little sleep as I get and little money as I have, it was an expression of appreciation for the previous kindness. The last I'd heard from Garrison, he was going to do it. I suppose two things coming at once, the Mafia threat and the Bradley charge, made it impossible.

Sincerely,

THE JOE PYNE SHOW
KTTVII

Dear Hal,

I received your letter this morning...and needless to say I was extremely upset.... I was sorry that you were not able to reach me on the phone before you left... for if you had, perhaps some of this could have been avoided.... Harold, I have always been open and honest with you in the past... and I'm going to be open and honest with you now.... I hope that you will believe what I am going to tell you....(not because I am afraid of being mentioned in one of your future books... an idea, that I must admit I found quite flattering), BUT because of the close personal friendship that I have always felt for you.....

First of all, I had absolutely NO IDEA that Butler was going to tear into you as he evidently did.... I have not heard the tape...but when Ernie Smith recounted what had transpired during the interview... I was furious.....

The ONLY thing I knew about Butler, from talking briefly with him over the phone...was that he was a right wing extremist...and that he disagreed with all of your theories about the Warren Report and the Assassination.....It seemed like a perfect match for a debate... and I thought that YOU would surely come out on top...OR I WOULD HAVE NEVER SET IT UP.....

In all honesty, I must admit that there are times that I have set up interviews where truth has become distorted ...in order to achieve a certain theatrical effect...and sometimes it does bother me.... BUT I WOULD NEVER DO THIS IN YOUR CASE...for two reasons... One is because of my personal friendship to you...and even more important than that, because the Assassination is a matter of great personal concern to me.... and I would not deliberately do ANYTHING to distort the truth in this matter...NO MATTER HOW THEATRICALY EFFECTIVE IT MIGHT BE..... I feel strongly, as you do, that President Kennedy's death was the result of a complicated plot...and that the truth has been suppressed....AND EVEN IF IT COST ME MY JOB...I WOULD NOT DO ONE THING TO INTERFERE WITH THE TRUE FACTS COMING TO LIGHT....

In all fairness to Hal Parets, I want you to know that he had no more idea that the show would come out as it did...than I did... He knew before hand, just what I knew... that Butler was a right-winger, who would disagree with you.....(Although Hal was not upset at the way the show turned out as I was...mainly because he is not as ardent in his beliefs about the assassination as I am... and because he is perhaps more concerned with the dramatic value of the interview... which, as the Producer of the show...is understandable).

THE JOE PYNE SHOW
KTTVII

I must confess that I was a little surprised and dissapointed that you JUST NATURALLY ASSUMED that I had set the interview up to come off as it did... rather than consider the possibility that perhaps, I had no idea that Butler would attack you personally, as he did.... It would seem to me that after all the time we spent together...and after all the work we did together to bring about a responsible segment on your last interview...you would have sensed my sincerity... and at least CONSIDERED giving me the benefit of the doubt.....In any case, I can only say that you mis-judged me greatly.....

I hope that this letter will clear things up, somewhat... and I would appreciate hearing from you...to let me know just how you feel.....

I trust things have been going well..... and that you will contact me in the near future.....

As Always,



P.S. If you want to use my home address for our personel correspondence...it might be just as well not having it go through my secretary and Hal

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