

3/27/75

Mr. Kevin Delaney
ABC News
1124 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Delaney,

Having caught this morning's plug for tonight's show and having had my request for Fairness Doctrine time on it ignored by ABC, I desire to make a few matters a matter of written record between us prior to the airing of the show tonight.

When I first spoke to you last summer and offered ABC an exclusive on the contents of Whitewash IV and you seemed interested, I then told you that I alone had continued to work continuously on the JFK assassination and had developed information I believe to be without precedent in our history. I described my sources and told you that while stealing it could be a simple matter and was common in this field I had no reluctance in trusting you and ABC to preserve confidence if we came to no agreement. I invited you or anyone you or ABC designated to travel the short distance here and satisfy yourselves on this score.

I also told you that while there were others making loud noises and engaging in self-promotions there was this significant new evidence I alone had developed.

I did repeat this invitation several times. It was never accepted.

I did not tape this morning's plug for tonight's show so I am not certain what ABC said. However, it is my belief that two comments made to your vast audience are hurtful to me and to my work. They are to the effect that "new evidence" does not really exist and that if it did it really is of no consequence because of this "old evidence."

Both statements are false. There can be no ABC innocence after my letter to its president to which there has been no response or my conversation with the representative of the show who phoned me earlier and told me that ABC had for all practical purposes abdicated its responsibilities and control over what it and its affiliated stations aired to Dick Gregory. And, of course, I had made these offers to you.

Because I have no idea of the content of tonight's show - which is not to say that I know nothing of the track record of those I'm told are on it - I can speak only in generalities. Copyright can be a tricky thing, particularly on a subject like this. However, of that which is not garbage that ABC has aired on this subject that I have seen, there is not a single fact that is not copyrighted in my work. It is also a fact that mine is by quite some time the first copyrighted work as it is by much longer the first completed dealing with this "old evidence." Two of the participants in the show to be aired tonight have clear records of plagiarizing my work and then without much skill trying to hide it in their published work. A third on a basis of trust had access to some of my work that I have not been able to print.

If ABC had no expert knowledge of the field, which would be remarkable given the size of its news staff and the obligations it assumes with licensing, given the nature of my offer to you, the evidence that accompanied it and the content of some of my letter to the president of ABC, in my view any added hurt to me cannot be innocent. My purpose in sending this belief to you prior to airing is because I want ABC to know my belief promptly and given the hours I keep I may not be able to stay awake for the show.

Quite aside from what I told you and gave you and what I wrote your president, there is a public record of the amount of work I have done in this field. You had this record without any research in what I gave you. It lists all my printed books. If there is anything untoward in what is to be aired tonight, the most casual check told ABC how it could obtain an authoritative assessment of what it planned to air. If it made no such check that is its responsibility.

When I am trying to have the work you declined to look at published, the factually incorrect comments you have already aired can be damaging. If they are not defamatory they certainly deprecate what I have done. This is the same work you declined to even look at and I did submit it prior to this show's taping.

There remains the Fairness Doctrine question. ABC has a clear record with this and with me and the responsible views I alone represent going way back. That it now discriminates against this view and against me still again I do deeply regret.

This subject is an exceedingly complicated one. So are some of the personalities who have made a good thing of it. All are persuasive. If ABC made any errors in judgement - and I can know of only those aired this morning - these errors could have been avoided and in my belief at least an effort should have been made to the end that what ABC takes to the people on a subject with all the implications of this one is not only accurate and honest but is in a proper context and is in no way hurtful ~~to~~ to those against whom ABC discriminated.

With a carbon of this letter to the president of ABC I renew my request for Fairness Doctrine time. Assuming there is no basis for complaint after I am aware of the content of what is to be aired, I also ask what ABC is going to do to undo the harm done me and my work on this morning's show.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

3-27-75 - 1040 A m Jesse & Campbell