

Dear Dave,

11/12/83

Last night's Nightline, ABC-TV, managed to avoid airing anything new and thus avoided offending offending officialdom. I had an inkling when Peter Lance was here that they were looking for conspiracy theorists but from the amount of time they spent and their interest in some new records, I'd hoped that they might use a few. Apparently under their format they could not use what Lance liked very much because he misrepresented it to Specter and thus he could not use that footage. It was a Dallas record of 11/22/63 saying that no leads would be followed because, before Oswald was charged, "true suspect located." The initial and J ? H and the ? looks like an N. Even though I'd told him that they were apparently the initials of someone in a supervisory role, he wanted them to be Hoover's initials - on a Dallas record yet - and that is the form of his question to Specter, I gather from his subsequent phone call.

There was something of value, if not intended that way. Stokes boasted that they undertook to put all the critics down, which is what I've been saying all along. His boast took the form of "looking into" the various theories, but it meant only what I state above.

Ron Rosenbaum, who has an article about to appear on the critics, was supposed to talk about them and at the end was specifically asked to, but he didn't get around to that. I still see no purpose in having him on, except that in their Milquetoasty way TV people seek what they can tell themselves is balance.

Davison has written to the Post complaining about Lardner's review and claiming that he was unfair to cite Donovan's testimony because Donovan was wrong on Oswald's security clearance. So, while the Post, brave people that they are, would not use the proof that Oswald has a crypto and top secret clearance as a story, it will use it in refuting her. Lardner asked for it and I've sent it to him.

How proud Zenger would be to be alive today! And Paine! And Jefferson!

I'll be on the Pacifica (with feeds to individual NPR stations) assassination special by phone. It begins the night of 11/22 at 7:30 and is scheduled to run until 10. There will be taped interviews and a panel. I'll be on the panel. Frank Donner, Tom Powers, Jean Davison and I've forgotten who else is on it.

The clue I had when Lance was here was his end of a phone conversation with the production staff in NYC. They apparently asked him about me and he said my approach was either novel or unique and quite interesting. I'd told him that I am not a conspiracy theorist and that the available evidence does not permit a responsible public theorizing. So, I then took it and now believe that he was asked what my theory is. Naturally, Penn Jones was worth airing in his incredible paranoia.

So far none of the so-called responsible media has missed him.

Best,