

6/25/66

Dear Jerry,

The mincsetting of the radical right on the Nebel show was so stimulating I had little trouble staying awake on the trip home. But since then it has been less easy to remain alert. Nebel had advance copies of LOOK, to be used against Epstein and which I ignored on the show. Since then I have read it and have written the enclosed letter to the editor of LOOK which you are free to use if you'd like, as a challenge to LOOK. I got the copy from Nebel.

If you do, may I suggest you consider using the facsimile on page 187 and the excerpting of the handwritten draft on page 193? These documents have never been used outside my book that I know of, and they certainly answer Knebel on the autopsy.

We'll drive to town and mail this in the hope it'll reach you promptly.

It also seemed to me fitting that I call LOOK on their suppression of even reference to my book and challenge them as I did.

The Nebel show was fun. Those nuts have invented a new form of insanity. From the few people I have spoken to I think I handled them well. After about an hour of Laski I got an idea: Art Buchwald ought to sue Laski for libel - for looking like Buchwald! If you think it's a good joke, you can attribute.

Those guys were so ill-mannered or disconsolate they didn't even say goodby, leave alone a contaminating handshake, which the producer came out to offer and Nebel, without any sign of joy, did offer. When they were reduced to mere red-baiting I ignored them, feeling I had already accomplished all that was possible and preserving for another possible show the wealth of material not used.

I hope any more panel shows I'm on in the future have only unfriendly inquisitors. These were furious at my thanks for their proving my case, for the barbs they are not accustomed to, and the bkuntness with which they were addressed. They are used to giving it out but they cannot take it. However, as soon as the mike went dead, O'Dougherty did express his admiration of what he described as my self control. But by using such extreme extremists and fools as foils, the material come out much clearer, I hope, and the proponents of the Report are stigmatized by them. If you heard the show, the thing that seemed to gall Laski most was my crack about never having been in Dallas, his nonsequetur, to answer his stupidities, next my berating for his wilful lying in putting words in my mouth. O'Dougherty was red in rage at my needling ix of him, as a lawyer, in his persistent evasion of evidence.

I can only hope for a goodr result. I did have a telephoned order from Miami today.

Thanks to you and the others for the help I hope this fills your need. I still have enough left to tear them to pieces if they accept my challenge, which I do not expect.

books /

(The Monthly Newspaper)

598 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022 212 PLaza 5-2220

Arnold:

I've sent your "Dubious Kennedy Inquest"

to Ellen Levine, editor, Diplomat magazine,

205 E. 67th St., NYC (owned by Metromedia).

Either way, you'll hear directly from her.

If you have the time, would you write a

brief 400-word or so piece for our July

issue that details new evidence — and also

rebutts Fletcher Knebel's upcoming article in

Look which, I also understand, attacks the

Epstein book.

Thanks.

Jerry

28/12

June 22, 1966

Mr. Jerome Agel
Editor, BOOKS
598 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Agel:

Kindnesses of many sorts have been bestowed upon my book, WHITEWASH: THE REPORT ON THE WARREN REPORT, but I must express a special gratitude and respect for the first and excellent review it got, in BOOKS for June 1966. It was that effective in the trade, Mr. Agel, both here and abroad. Its benefits for the book and for me have been great, and I must thank you and tell you what happened.

The appearance of your issue fortunately coincided with the opening of the annual convention of the American Booksellers' Association. Because WHITEWASH is a private edition, we then had but a local distributor. Armed with copies of BOOKS, I approached the major distributors. They were so impressed that now the book should be available to most booksellers through their regular distributors, six of whom are handling WHITEWASH.

Further, a number of the major reviewers learned of WHITEWASH through BOOKS. They interviewed me, got copies of the book, and reviews I hadn't dreamed of a few weeks earlier are now pending. The success I now expect is largely due to you.

In Europe, I had an agent in England. I had written him asking if he could arrange for representation elsewhere on the continent, but without response. As soon as he got the copy of BOOKS I mailed him, he started moving. "I've had photostat copies made of that wonderful article in BOOKS," he wrote, "and am sending...to Germany and France..." WHITEWASH is now represented in both countries and probably in Scandinavia!

I knew that BOOKS was a young and sprightly publication, enough of a recommendation. But that it wielded such mighty influence I didn't know. The respect it and the review were accorded in the trade are outstanding.

We do, deeply, appreciate the great good you have done us.

Sincerely yours,