

September 9, 1976

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT

Robert Walker, President
American Program Bureau
59 Temple Place
Boston, Mass. 02111

Dear Mr. Walker:

I have just been informed that you have announced signing Mark Lane to appear under your auspices to speak on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a subject on which you were to have booked me years ago and then refused to on the claim that you agreed with Lane he had an exclusive JFK contract. He had done no work on King.

Your then employee who communicated this factual and legal rubbish to me more recently worked for Lane in Washington. The reports of her departure that have reached me include that she told him he was, literally, crazy. With ego and self-importance he is.

I then offered to speak on this subject free so you could determine whether or not I can do this effectively. You also declined this.

The most obvious proof that you did not have an exclusive contract with Lane is that you were simultaneously booking Clay Shaw. If you will check your files, you will find correspondence on this. I also have it.

Although after that I completed what remains the only book not in accord with the official fiction on the King assassination, you still did not book me. Since then I have done a very large amount of additional work on this subject.

Mr. Lane is not alone in this newest facet of a career of thievery. Those with whom he has been in recent association have similar careers, on the King assassination and with my work.

There is some of this that in time will come to me. His appearances will be tape-recorded by many people. Some send me tapes, without my soliciting it.

He has presented my work as his own in books, articles, on the electronic media (once in my presence when he defended stealing - taped with his knowledge) and in public appearances. He has done this for years. When he does not claim it as his own, his sick self-concept drives him to such extremes as pretending that what I have spent years fighting the government to get and finally obtain through litigation was released (inferentially to him alone) through the goodness of the federal heart. His compulsions are such that he has even invented phony footnotes to non-existent sources to mask this.

Lane has just occupied a leadership role in ruining any possibility of an investigation by the Congress this year on what I devoted 13 intensive years of investigating. When he could, while I was doing this work, Lane was commercializing it for his own gain. With his unique genius for doing anything that will get attention for him and an incredible lack of factual knowledge on the subject on which he pretends to be the expert, he has been in large measure responsible for the misdirection of the Congress and the misleading of the people.

Walker

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I do not know what I can do. I am not of means and I have not been able to consult counsel. I do know what I will want to do and I do believe that law will be on my side. I therefore write you to put you on notice. In my opinion if you make it possible for Lane to do what he has done throughout his career, you, too, are responsible. More so when you did not keep your word to me after you asked me to go to your offices and reached an agreement with me then.

You have my permission to give Lane a copy of this if in return you will provide me with whatever he may say in writing in response or by dubs of tape recordings if verbally. I am familiar with what he says when I am not present. He says nothing at all when we are together. He is that kind of stalwart man.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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Mr. Herbert S. Schlosser
President
National Broadcasting Company, Inc.
Rockefeller Center
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Schlosser:

NBC is preparing a special by Abby Mann on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. NBC has already aired a duplication of my work on the King assassination, taking credit for it.

It has been some time since I wrote Mr. Mann about this. I have had no response. Mr. Mann is in association with an odd bag of thieves and would-be thieves. He is your agent. I therefore write to put you on notice that I will do what I can to protect myself.

He has selected those who have careers of using the work of others and then defaming those whose work they steal to protect themselves.

This may seem strange to you, but as examples he is aligned with one who has a long career of this nature and has grown famous over it and another who tried to steal my work more overtly, with a meaningless contract. When he could not do this, he set about duplicating it.

Prior to NBC's airing of my work as its own, it knew better. Among the means are from my book on this subject, the only one not in accord with the official representations. When it appeared NBC refused to have anything to do with it while demanding a number of extra copies of it and receiving them at my cost. It then also refused me fairness doctrine time on this subject in which I occupied a unique position.

It seems to me you have a relatively simple means of understanding what you are doing through Mr. Mann. When I have written the only book not in accord with the official story and thereafter was James Earl Ray's investigator, Mr. Mann has not been in touch with me directly or indirectly.

I have not been able to discuss this with counsel but it seems to me a more persuasive evidence of intent is not easily conceived.

Sincerely,

HAROLD WEISBERG