

Route 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
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1/7/73

Dear Mr. Scott,

When your excellent piece, *Age Old Questions Remain After Tragedy At Southern*, appeared in the Post, because we share an interest in such tragedies, I sent it to Jim White, who had just retired from AP in San Francisco. It and the flu reached Jim at the same time. Because I told Jim I want to keep this piece, he has just returned it, with a note about having known you there, etc.

Jim also told me that Hollie West was in that bureau for a while. If you do not mind, I'd appreciate your telling Mr. West that I have done nothing about those original pressings at 78 of a number of black vocalists and musicians in which he expressed an interest about a year ago when I spoke to him at the Post when I was there to see Paul Valentine. While I'd prefer not to part with these records, our financial condition requires the conversion of unessential assets. If Mr. West does not have an interest in these, I'd appreciate it if he'd let me know. Or, if he has an interest in them but has changed his mind about dubbing them, I'd lend them to him for dubbing.

Paul can tell you something about me and the work I've done in recent years. My last book published was on the King assassination. The publisher and the major media helped see to it that this book bombed. One of the things I'd like to discuss with you at some time is why there was no reaction from a single black to this work or the subject, and please believe me, I made strenuous efforts, for reasons that include what may not be immediately apparent to you. Although I have extensive experience in public appearances over the years, a major speakers' bureau could not arrange a single lecture. Not even after I agreed to appear before any black audience without fee. I'm baffled by this and would like to understand it, as I would lack of black reaction to my work.

My interests and experience are by no means limited to political assassinations, although I do regard them as turning points. I go back in Washington to the early 30s. Then and in recent years I have had interests in other matters superficially essentially black topics, if I do not so regard them. Recently, when it became apparent that I would not be able to write the books, I have let black writers have the research for three. I retain a fourth. It and two of the others seem to have movie possibilities. It now seems improbable that I will be able to write this book and I am not at all certain that I am the one to do it.

I get to Washington only infrequently and then during your working day. I prefer to beat the rush-hour in returning and until mid-April I must provide my wife with evening transportation. Jim tells me you have four children. Unless you get them into the country often, I believe they might enjoy it here. We are but an hour from the Post building, closer to some parts of northwest. There is super-highway from the Beltway to about five minutes from here. We are part of the way up the first mountain in the Catoctins. If the weather stays as it is, our pond will be suitable for ice-skating, if your family enjoys that. There is enough fallen wood in the woods near the pond for an effortless wienie-roast or barbecue of any kind. Most children, from the city in particular, enjoy these things.

So, this is an invitation, for almost any weekend. Paul can tell you how to get here, or phone me. I hope you would like to.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg