

12/8/69

Butler

Dear Paul and Gary,

You may recall that at the time of the New Move Washington demonstration, I conjectured on reasons why Butler may have turned up there to lay his very big egg so publicly. One of ~~the~~ possibilities, I suggested, was for his own special techniques of self-promotion, to give him another grip on the moneyed right-wing test. This, it turns out, was a good guess, as I discovered by accident last night.

Because my wife was ill, I studied the TV programs to see what might interest her. One of the things was Metromedia's 10 p.m. news, which I noticed was followed by a crappy movie. I got it for her. When I went to turn it off at 10:30, before I reached the set they were announcing the movie would be delayed so they could present a special program, "The Square World of Ed Butler". Because I wanted to get a tape set up I missed part of the opening, but I heard most of the sound (and I did tape the rest, but will not save the tape). They I watched it, which I present as an act of unselfishness and dedication. The show is just bad.

However, Butler can be a babler. I have one of his careless remarks that relates to Thornley, from another source, and it is contradictory to what Thornley said on the same matter. Butler is also capable of libelling one of us. With Schick paying all way, this would be good to know, if he does it. It is for these reasons I hope one of you knows someone in LA who would tape his show there, reusing the tape if there is nothing of interest, but forwarding it if there is something that might be. ~~XX~~ Butler once said this potentially important thing, and if he repeats it, in any form, it can be very important. Lifton's confidence in Thornley's integrity and honorability to the contrary notwithstanding, Butler indicated Thornley was well aware of LHO's presence in N.O. Incidentally, when I phoned Dave at Paul's encouragement 2/68, I asked him the basis in fact of his support of WT. His response was his judgement of the man, trust in his honor or integrity, nothing more..

The show itself is Butler's commercialization of the youth bit, straight radical right in content and participation. This particular had Dodd and Ochsner, repeatedly (by which I mean three or four times each), Buddy Lewis, a couple of vapid black nonentities, and on subjects including the new Agnew line. The camera work was sterile and unimaginative, especially when presenting a group called "Son's of Liberty", when it kept on a Latin and an oriental face. Among those on the show staff are Lee Edward (at least second generation radical right, his father having been one of the most irresponsible Meerstlings), now YAP publicity man (at least three YAP connections with this particular show), and Butler's wife Gay is credited as assistant producer.

I am not expert on communications law, but I believe as a consequence of the payola scandals, tie-ins were prohibited. This show is a Schick paid-for promo for the magazine (Schick paid for), even to page numbers, basic to the format.

This was a boring, unimaginative, amateurish bit, copied poorly for other shows, strong in pushing Butler as something special, senseless (as with Sal Mineo's anti-acid pitch, which boiled down to don't use acid because it is not quality controlled- but it can be good and with him had been!). This show cannot possibly succeed on its own. It cannot be aired on its own, it is that bad, save where there are no standards at all. The Schick payment in Washington is clear, for it was aired. I am certain the same will be true elsewhere, and this I'd like to know. It will be important if there is ever an action against Butler, for Schick pays the freight and is liable. Oh, yes, the reason ROTC should be taught is that not it is censorship, and who is for censorship? Great logic! Brilliance.