

Dear Roger,

9/20/75

As we exchange favors, none against the interest of your employer, I will tell you what the real situation is but in complete confidence except if I am consulted and approve whatever you may be asked.

There is no chance at all that CBS is now not going to be creamed.

I have the financing to bring Post Mortem out. The only question is the date. With all Ldi and I have to do and when we are also publishers and she has other obligations, as I do, I can't forecast the date of appearance. I do expect it not to be very long and I'd not be surprised if it is before any special.

I have done most of the real work on the JFK assassination. CBS has stayed away from me on this except for a short visit by a decent type who had a limited New Orleans/Oswald interest. This gives me all the reading I need on CBS' intentions. A history of which you do not know (it was before your time there anyway) and of which I have adequate records can account for this attitude. So can other factors, like farout ~~speculations~~. Or policy.

I know the ~~stuff~~ ^{field} well. I know all that has been written about the medical evidences, by whom and what he knows and does not know. Even his prejudices, and some are political. Except for the meaningless or the insane there is no serious work that is not mine and I think it will develop my property. You have never met my colleague/friend/lawyer Jim Lesar but he has been ready for some time to file suits over unauthorized use except that he is too busy. More is in the works, we are aware of it and I have filed written, prepublication notice. Ripping me off has become a separate industry.

CBS has at least one serious competitor. There may be two. I have heard from one. I have made offers on the level of the approach. At that level they were greeted with excitement. This may turn out to mean nothing but there has not been enough time for a bureaucracy to work and decide. I have been told from whom I should next expect to hear. And I have refused to travel on this, at least for now.

I have made a sale of limited ancillary rights. This provides what I required to be able to print. Other similar deals are pending. There is approval to the top, meaning all editorial but not policy.

The subject is going crazier every day and the ripoffs are become ^{ing} more common. There are indications of federal involvement in some but not beyond question. I should know with some certainty within a few days.

Your people appear to have made an initial policy decision that in my belief will be close to ruinous, will be costly and will not hold. I was as explicit as I felt I could be with the impervious Lesar. However he took it, I really was trying to be helpful to CBS in what I told him. No matter how many shoulders CBS may find for the carrying of ~~the~~ water, there is every prospect that this thing is going to come apart in the very near future. There are non-commercial competitive forces at work. They have great personal interest, much at stake and considerable power.

I don't think there is a chance that CBS will now approach me on what I believe I own and what without any doubt is my exclusive work. If they do my minimum conditions will not be in larger numbers. Even if I have nothing else in prospect, and I do as of now. (I think it is in your interest that I not spell out what I mean by "property.") But if they do I will not do as I did with Lesar, let him decide whether or not we tape what we say. I will be giving nothing away. And I have no interest in personal publicity. I never have and have a long record on this. I welcome publicity when it involves my work and then only in a context that makes it available to people. This may be strange to those whose lives rotate around the common craving for attention but in 1966 I declined to appear on Today simply because it did not relate to my current work. My wife once refused to appear on the original and then top-rated Steve Allen show when a staffer offended us. It happened so fast he introduced her from coast-to-coast and she was not in the wings. So, I also have made no initiatives. Best.