

12/12/75

Dear Jim,

As soon as Ldl is off the phone I must get to other things so, briefly, until something happened - and not necessarily entirely sinister - I was the second lead in last night's Cronkite show. As it was aired nothing appeared.

My hunch is that the release of their people in Angola, to them a major story, replaced me. This, of course, is by no means an explanation. It merely is the excuse. Other items could have been dropped. And there was plenty of newsworthy crap last night. Moreover, they gave up a free plug for themselves in the doing, so I presume there was some internal disagreement in which I would win in a can.

I attribute this almost change to two considerations above all others: a different CBS reporter, not one conditioned to the course on which their special is directed by Couser; and the combination of my manner and the nature of the documentation.

A segment, not good, was used this morning. CBS took credit for it with a single, passing mention of my name, used irrelevant stock footage as visuals for a text, and then had me, of all the things I said and they photographed in a hour and a half, going into the part I began by saying I would not say anything that crossed into my role as Ray's investigator, on the origin of the shot.

To attract adverse attention to me from those with motive CBS could not have done more. They could not have selected a single section less relevant to the entire series of disclosures and charges. Perhaps it is accidental, but I was alert to it as soon as this bit of film started. I did not expect the stuff to be on, I'd slept later than usual and was carrying Lil's mate in to her when it started and I did not have time to tape.

Actually, looking to commercial-suit considerations, whether the precise language says it or not the sense is that this is all I got and they and I both applied for this one thing they used, the one two-page report including the window sill. They also their duplicating part of my request with my filing a suit and they knew both prior to their airing.

Combined with the scratching of the decent item from the biggest audience, the Cronkite show, this representation, which amounts to misrepresentation, may be more significant. Especially because I am sure I ~~was~~ offered to make CBS part of my action and if they did not want to told Esther how to do it herself. Also, this was my understanding of the purpose of the proposed Birnbaum visit, to get help with suits, not just on ~~the~~ JFK but in general.

Of course, you could still regard this as broken ice.

I have a notion that if someone outside this gang views all the film shot yesterday, is aware of how I feel about CBS and yet covered them twice and sees all that was omitted, some minds might open.

Meanwhile, there is going to be an Enquirer story on my view of the first of the series, specific and in direct quotes. Maybe a follow-up I've proposed. I've heard and approved the first, which is well and professionally done.

Hastily,