

NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701:::301/473-8196

January 17, 1968

Mr. Richard W. Jencks
Vice President and General Counsel
Columbia Broadcasting Co.
61 West 52 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Jencks,

There is one aspect of our correspondence that is particularly troubling to me. It is that you reiterate a position of policy and not one of fact. The responsibility of so major a source of news and opinion in a society such as ours requires more of you.

You cannot be aware of the content of the broadcasts about which I have written, as aware as you must be to make factual response, without knowing two things:

That you have consistently avoided one of the subjects of this correspondence;

That the purpose and intent of the broadcasts were to attack my honesty, character, integrity or like personal qualities. I think they were in the nature of a personal attack. And I am not a political figure on whom you were making fair editorial comment.

You cannot, seriously, claim yours was a serious, entirely factual presentation and make this claim on the basis of your own study and knowledge. If you have not, I would like to suggest that you may cause CBS additional serious embarrassment. I do think that when a man with your responsibilities within CBS writes as you have written me, you should do so on the basis of something more dependable than a representation to you by one of those responsible for what happened, what CBS did. To put it another way, I think you should try and be a judge rather than a partisan.

So, I again ask that you respond to the entire correspondence, going back to mine with Mr. Midgley.

Were I to identify those CBS stations that offered me the opportunity to respond to your radio construction of the TV series, in advance of its airing but after the people involved had seen the TV series, I would subject them to retaliation. This I cannot do. These were CBS stations, not affiliates. It may be true that Mr. Midgley has no knowledge of it, but it did happen, and I did make the phone call asked by one when I was in New York. And it was more than one station. You know what stations aired the program and which, if any, presented the other side.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg

CBS

Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
51 West 52 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Richard W. Jencks
Vice President and General Counsel

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letters of August 19 and December 2, 1967. I had thought that my letter to you of August 17, 1967 had amply made clear our view that your complaints about the CBS News broadcasts dealing with the Warren Commission Report are without merit.

With reference to your allegation that a CBS Owned station -- still unidentified by you -- withdrew an offer of time for you to appear with Mr. Midgley, I would only note that Mr. Midgley states that he has no knowledge of the incident. Nevertheless, my earlier offer still stands. If you will furnish me with the information on which your allegation is based, including identity of the station or stations involved, I will be glad to have the matter investigated.

Very truly yours,



Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 7
Frederick, Maryland 21701

January 10, 1968