

August 19, 1967

Mr. Richard W. Jencks  
Deputy General Counsel  
Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.  
51 West 52 Street  
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Jencks:

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in responding to my August 9 letter to Mr. Brooks. I am impressed by its passage through the CBS chain of legal command and with the total absence of response to other communications.

Your reiteration of his refusal to grant fairness-doctrine time for rebuttal is noted and accepted as a policy rather than a factual statement. I shall delay carrying this further to give you lawyers a chance to check with each other and learn the fact for yourselves. Accept my assurances that I am at your service for such a purpose at any mutually convenient time. I tell you with all sincerity and without ulterior motive that, if CBS maintains the fictitious position that it fairly and honestly presented both sides, it will add humiliation to disgrace.

With respect to the second paragraph of your letter of August 17, substitute CBS-owned for CBS-affiliated and see if you cannot learn more. In at least one case this is known to CBS, for I agreed to tape a show with Les Midgley and told your station how he could reach me when I was in New York, for which I then left.

For your own understanding, I suggest you consider the effect on decisions by affiliates of one-sided and erroneous programs CBS presented as factual and are accepted as factual by the trusting affiliates when they are not.

It is also apparent that the CBS legal department is not now possessed of copies of all the correspondence. I suggest it is to your interest to get it.

Until then, may I commend CBS for the appropriateness to all of this correspondence of your postage-machine blurb: "CBS News gives you more than just the top of the news"?

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg