

12/10/73

Ed. Esther Kartiganer
CBS News
524 W 57 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Esther,

I'd have written you sooner but the phlebitis has dragged me down much. Last Thursday's travel for the press conference and having to drive to Washington for the first time in two months were, physically, too much for me. To the tiredness weariness is added, partly by what I regard as the not accidental obscenity of what CBS has aired to date in its specials, partly from what those above you have leaked to the print press about the doctrine of the section of which you are part, and partly from Art Buchwald's today's column.

In addition, I was disappointed Thursday that you did not reciprocate common courtesy. I gave you copies of everything I had gotten from DJ under FOIA (in which, related, CBS got on my back) and you did not even tell me if you were provided anything else. What you know there is no competition, that I plan no more writing. In turn, this reminds me that you have been silent about my request that you provide a statement that the State gave you voluntarily what it had denied us under a discovery order and about which it had grossly deceived a judge.

A short while ago Jimmy wrote me that despite his personal refusal and despite the clear and vehement opposition of his counsel CBS - Rather in person - had tried to cajole him into granting an interview, again with the kind of bait you denied is within the capability of character of another of your colleagues. I found it necessary to write Rather.

You probably don't know it, but before we met I had an approach for help from another of higher rank in CBS for help in the area that led me to refuse to be interviewed by Rather. I've not heard a word since I agreed. Further details can await the discussion of which we spoke after the show is aired, if you then want it.

As you will remember I stipulated that I'd help in any way I could with the clear understanding that none of my work be used without my permission. There are normal and proper arrangements for such things (although CBS seems to prefer the shady). If not with you with others I reminded that I'd heard it had actually hired the faker Schoenmann as a "consultant." Now I hear that you've paid the faker/con man Cliff knowing all along that he was a faker. Until airing I can only conjecture but the most obvious possibility is not honest journalism and is consistent with the intent to defame, to hide partisanship clearly visible long before this. How the Hoffa \$10,000.

What kind of people can you be to have taken so much time from Jim and me when neither of us has a regular income and each has more than we can do, including what it now seems CBS will use in one way or another?

I'll be more than surprised if this turns out to be an honest show or even an honest effort at one. The indications of intent, ranging downward from smear, are too visible. I do hope I'm wrong.

When the show is aired, I'd appreciate a transcript.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg