

CBS

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21704
6/16/77

Mr. James J. McManus
CBS News
2020 M St., NW
Wash., D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. McManus,

Your kind words about my friend Dan Christensen lead me to believe you will not object to my sending him a copy of your letter of 6/14/77.

Parenthetically I suggest that between Dan's stories and my earlier treatment of the Milteer/Somerset story, in 1967 in Onsald in New Orleans and earlier but printed in 1971 in Frame-Up there is nothing that is real added by what I have come to regard as the House assassins committee.

Finally, and Dan's by a carbon, I add that from what I have obtained under FOIA from the FBI in another case it is apparent that it cut Willie off from being a symbolized informant because he was coming up with so much the FBI could not check out.

I'm particularly pleased that you tried to check his Washington/NLRB story out because I have in my possession FBI records of his going to it after he cut him off and after the King assassination that include no reference to the NLRB/ Longshoreman bit.

My interest in a transcript of your broadcast is not literary. It is archival only. As I accumulate years I have also added a medical problem.

As the assassins committee seeks to exploit the media, being unable to conduct a real investigation, please feel free to ask me if and when you may have questions. That I must oppose it troubles me because I was the first to say that there is the need of a Congressional investigation, in a manuscript completed by 2/15/65. All I can say in self-defense is that I then had in mind a more responsible standing committee, like Judiciary.

Ordinarily these people are McCarthyite to me. In their better moments they are clowns.

I have just returned from a trip to Dallas not to investigate the JFK assassination but to gather evidence for one of my many FOIA suits. I was the guest of the little-known private citizen also wounded in the JFK assassination. I did not dream that Ray would escape. (Beginning in 1971 I warned him that from my experience there of the 1930s the dogs would get him.) My host has but a single phone. My wife tells me that someone from CBS called me. She said where I could be reached. I have no idea who it was but I did take calls as they came in to 4 a.m. If you know who phoned me I'd appreciate this explanation being relayed.

Please give George Sherman my regards. Good reporters are not uncommon. George is also a good person.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

CBS NEWS

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June 14, 1977

Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Some weeks ago our good friend George Herman passed along to me a letter you had written him concerning a report I broadcast about Willie Somerset of Miami. You asked for a transcript of that report and, I confess, I managed inadvertently to bury your letter in my files without answering. I am asking New York for a transcript and will forward it to you at the earliest opportunity.

As you pointed out, I was careful with the story. But, at the time, I was not aware of Miami Magazine's excellent series by Dan Christensen.

In back-checking the story I ran across Dan's articles, talked with Sylvan Meyer and Dan and came, ultimately, to the conclusion that the tangled story is something I should keep on file until the Assassinations Committee moves, if ever, in that direction.

I was unable to confirm that Somerset attended a labor meeting in Washington, D.C., as he claimed, or that such a meeting ever occurred.

I appreciate your interest in our coverage, which, as you can perceive, is so far limited simply to following the Committee's work. Their apparent lack of focus to date, I am sure, is reflected in the sporadic nature of my work. Perhaps they will someday make some legitimate news.

Again, my thanks for your interest.

Very truly yours,



James J. McManus