2/13/72

Mr. Leonard Ackerman, Attorney
Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
51 West 52 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Ackerman,

For reasons other than those of yourxletter of 1/27, I will not press my request with regard to Dr. Lattimer. I find your accidental formulation rather interesting, however, in that you refer to "fairness obligations" rather those those stemming from the fairness doctrine.

I think that on this subject it is far past the time when CBS and all those in policy positions should have examined what it has aired, beginning with the utterly false description of the motion of the President's head as seen in the movies of the assassination of President Kennedy.

There are two things in Dr. Lattimer's statement requiring no detailed knowledge of the fact of that assassination for anyone with average intelligence in CBS to have known it was airing not news but propaganda. And contrary to the customary news procedure on controversial matters, it was played straight, like the given word, with no single one of the many more expert on this subject than Dr. Lattimer interviewed or quoted. I think you can answer these questions adequately for yourself.

How can pictures and X-rays of a corpse show <u>who</u> fired <u>what</u> shots or from what exact point?

How can saying that the Warren Commission and a much more qualified panel of experts who examined the same evidence were both wrong prove they were both right? On this latter point, Dr. Lattimer claims that the point of entrance of the so-called non-fatal bullet was about two inches higher in the rear of the President's neck. But he also claims this proves the conclusions of the Commission are right. With this one shot alleged to have inflicted a total of seven injuries in four parts of two bodies, requiring the precise trajectory attributed to it, how can this major alteration of its imputed trajectory not prove that the rest of this imputed trajectory was <u>wrong</u>, not ~~right~~ right, as Dr. Lattimer claims? (Or how can any reporter not understand that in moving the alleged point of entry into the neck prevents it from being to the right of the neck, as the official story has it?)

Please let me know in advance when CBS solemnly informs us that the moon is made of green cheese and that it is news because an eminent expert on cats has so declared. I may miss it otherwise. And I wouldn't want to for anything. But by the standards of this case, CBS will be "fair", without obligations, and will be paying the "news" straight.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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

Law Department

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to that portion of your recent letter to the Federal Communications Commission concerning the MERV GRIFFIN SHOW appearance by Percy Foreman in which you ask "for CBS time on all media for the other side of what it has just aired through Dr. John K. Lattimer, a urologist in no sense qualified as an expert, the President's urine not being an issue in the assassination, and the fact of his lack of expert qualifications being carefully hidden by CBS."

We have reviewed the CBS SUNDAY NEWS broadcast on January 9, 1972, and find that the interview of Dr. Lattimer does not raise fairness obligations. As you know, Dr. Lattimer was the first private physician since the Warren Commission's findings were reported to review slides and X-rays of the autopsy of the late President Kennedy. Dr. Lattimer's views reflected his evaluation of this material. If, at some future date, contrary analysis is made by others permitted access to the autopsy materials, the newsworthiness of such analysis will be considered at that time.

Under these circumstances, we must respectfully reject your request for time.

Very truly yours,

Leonard I. Ackerman
Attorney

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

January 27, 1972