

John Christian

July 18, 1967

Dear Hal:

By this time you should have heard from Wes Bowen; he called me last night to relay the decision which was tentatively reached by his broadcast directors yesterday. Let's hope they don't falter. Better, let's hope some "unknown" force doesn't falter them.

I've been tossing the Garrison situation around in my mind since we spoke Sunday - and have some intuitive thoughts for your consideration. First, one must admit that the primary reason for the tardiness of the truth in this matter has been the incapacity and/or inability of those who would choose to resist the fraud to find a common course or mechanism through which to force the issue. Aside from the covert/overt transgressions against your proprietary rights of discovery, I must feel that the impetus for Lane and some others has been the cause first, the rewards a close second. Happily, or unhappily, the Godsend to this difused effort has been its capacity to obtain the basic sustinence of funds to provide the fuel for mobility.

Now, your circumstance has been different than all others; but, you chose it that way. Your approach to the calling is unlike any of the others; it is, in fact, an academician's task you have chosen, one which rarely provides for the luxuries of accolade, the amenities of leisure, and certainly not the adequacy of monetary security. Like it or not, at this juncture, you have, by design or inadvertently, chosen the path of the martyr.

Let me further offer some distant insights: Should this have been your own bed of nails, you probably would brace your back and grit your teeth, then charge head-on in a trail of bloody curses. But, this was and is not the case, for your talented, gracious, dedicated and patient wife has had to share in the pursuit of the hunter, with all its pitfalls, indignities, and privations. But, she's still in there loading the family rifle, wiping the brow, and rinsing and cleansing the wounds of her man. You two must be oh so close to realizing that battered word "love" than even you entertain. It nonetheless must bug you senseless to know that others have been eating higher on the hog at the expense of your lovely spouse; no hunter likes to sit back and watch another drag off his long-stalked prey, especially when his mate is due the fruits of his trek.

All this rhetoric doesn't undo anything - and I'm fully aware of same. But, it should background my followthrough.

With your permission and assistance, I will become instrumental in righting the wrongs done you by CBS, NBC, Lane, and anyone else. This is actually my

true forte, anyway. For your general information, I supervised the investigation, logistics, and ultimate confrontation between a corporate client of mine and some California banking institutions with assets in excess of \$15-Billion - and we won - without ever flinging them into court to do it. Our position was so completely backgrounded and documented that by the time we instructed counsel to confront them, we had them compromised in prima facie fashion. In time I will send you the pertinent material for your review; the parallels are immediate and distinct between your case and their's: Illegal appropriation of copyrighted/proprietary materials with tortious intent.

These same law firms have worked with me on several major legal matters, so we have considerable rapport. As I told you Sunday, they are among the more prestigious of West Coast law firms, with senior Counsel have the highest (upper 10%) rating their profession can give. I have already had preliminary conversation with them about you, your momentous position, and the ramifications therein. I showed them your letter to Brooks yesterday, and they indicated unqualified interest. Incidentally, they handle my personal and business affairs, are now putting together the business vehicle I will require to advance the motion picture et al discussions/negotiations.

So, back to my original premise, that being Jim Garrison's posture and demeanor. We both agreed that distance is important, long or short. That you cannot walk away from your literary commitments is absolute; that he is being besieged by hangers-on and opportunists is also absolute. But, you cannot get so miffed at his inconsideration or naivete that it pervades your attitudes outwardly. Garrison is the catalyst all the bona fide critics have long had need of. He needs your support, just as he needs Lane's and others, if only because you have tediously cultivated an educated following which can rally to his support in defiance of the detractors. If he wins, or even makes a credible showing down there, you and the others will have made the longest step yet, aesthetically and financially. It's that simple.

Hal, no one can ever take your singular identity away from you in this historic adventure. Steal it they may, but it will be temporary at best, and most expensive for them at least. A final accounting, whatever the unit of measurement, is still several years away. You are going to become a very wealthy man, far beyond the others who would borrow your shadow. But your greatest wealth, which your lovely wife will enjoy even more, will be that your sacrifices have produced a pride of accomplishment that few men in American letters have ever attained. One other was John F. Kennedy.

Cool it, man; let me terrorize the creeps. Keep writing, KEEP WRITING!!!

My best to your sore-fingered, but lovely wife.

Best Personal Regards,



John