

Dear John,

7/3/67

Thanks for the good advice. As you can see, I gave it to myself with Midgley. Could I be any cooler? To Variety, I felt it inappropriate to be that cool. It is no man who comes home to find his wife being abused by a stranger and says "pardon me", unless it is for the administration of a better blow.

There will be no one from CBS to debate me. I wish there would be. Perhaps that will help with your people, if they are influenced by the adverse CBS opinions. Their critical conclusions were those I first expressed, those specific things they went into, even when credited to others, were mine. Even that bit on the FBI "autopsy" report, is mine, stolen, as Paul Hoch can tell you. I directed him to it in confidence, he let others have it not for use, and the next thing we knew it was in the back of Popkin's and Epstein's books. Neither one understood it, as casual examination of the autopsy chapter of WW II shows.

With CBS I should be cool. With everyone else I am looking for a fight. It is unmanly not to. People will be suspicious if they know the truth and find me uncomplaining. I fight clean, though.

If you have seen Variety or spoken to many ordinary people who took the time to think, you know CBS did get a kickback. They did, as I predicted in advance, help us. Their defense was no defense, and it makes people suspicious. The worst thing they all could have done was gang up. That makes it too obvious.

By the time you get this you should have seen the new book. I have no right to expect anything from the press, but I think I'll make a kind of breakthrough with it. Coming directly on top of all this intellectual finkery, it should do some good. It cannot be answered honestly. But it depends on the attention I get.

When you and Harv have read the enclosed, please return them. Copy if you would like to...I have asked "fairness" time of CBS and accused NBC of trying to plant bad information with Garrison through me (I have a tape of it; it happened). I then sent Garrison a copy of the letter and told him if it is appropriate, to give the letter to the judge. Then I said if the judge wants me to come down, I will.

Exposure in the mountain states is something I've had least of. I look forward to hearing from KSL.

For your movie cats, if they fear, let me make this suggestion: let them get a studio, invite all the CBS people they want, all the Commission people they can, and a decent moderator, like Harv, to give me half of a fair shake, and let them gang up, on the CBS thing, the Report, my books, or any combination. We can soon establish who has fact, who speaks with truth, who is right. Of course, there will be no acceptances. But the offer may be persuasive. Note that where they do not misquote, the AP technique is that of Roberts, making me think both have the same inspiration: Lane and Weisberg say, or Epstein and Weisberg say, and they forget about what Weisberg is supposed to have said and doesn't and limit themselves to what they allege the others said...Looking forward to hearing from Harve. Please on new book 7/10, his first back. Best