

October 30th

Dear Hal:

Enclosed is an article from yesterday's local rag; it is about as close in tenor to your struggle, albeit far less oppressive in terms of time, as anything I've read yet.

I am trying to contact Sahl here; I understand he's staying with Enrico Banducci, owner of the hungry i, where Mort is now appearing, in the smaller of its two rooms; what a comedown for the man.

Lane aside, there could possibly be positive potential in my establishing a dialogue with Sahl; remember, he has considerable contacts within and without "show biz", that could, if properly approached and presented a well-ordered business vehicle, provide our cause with substantial lift. Remember, my (our) commitment is to one Harold Weisberg - and anything contributory cannot be omitted from consideration; it ain't as though there are multitudes standing in line with endorsements and loot.

I have another possible fat prospect for ALFIE; will know more about him on Wednesday.

Chatted with Hal Verb this morning; ideally, it would be to have him act as your "manager" under ALFIE's hire while you're out here in SF and LA; even better if we can afford to keep him with you during a much more extensive tour, right after the first of the year; he's amenable to such an undertaking, incidently; we'll see how ALFIE fits into your plans when you get here. An advance man is indispensable if you are to make the maximum usage of your time and talents.

I am told that Garrison is due back in town within a few weeks; it would be most useful were he to contact O'Gara, McGuire & Nestel while here, to fill them in on otherwise confidential data; while you're down there you can let him know he can (and should) speak freely to these "AV rated" lawyers, that whatever litigational action they might undertake on your behalf (CBS, NBC, etc) can only help the cause.

Might I suggest something about your book supply out here: L&S Distributors have only 300 in stock, will have only 250 or so when we get done getting what we need; if my calculations are correct, you'll need to have 4-5,000 copies available around here because your appearance schedule is geared to that kind of response. Remember, there are some 3,000,000 folks around here that can read. How fast can Parallax re-supply L&S?

Just spoke with Paul Elder; he wants me to send him a copy of the new book (and it's in the mail already). Because of your appearance on the Dolan show, he'll probably want several hundred on hand too; it wouldn't be a half bad idea for you to appear at his main store for an hour on

Saturday, after the Dolan bit, say about 11-noon, or noon-1; hadn't planned on any autograph parties as such, but this might be sufficiently prestigious to make an exception.

What would you think of a charity appearance at a major auditorium on Saturday or Sunday (11th & 12th)? I say charity because I'd rather spend the money on hall rental and qualify for free publicity via the media than go for a profit, which is anathema along these lines anyway. It could be a select panel of newsmen asking questions about the matter in general, New Orleans in particular. (Sunday would make the Monday morning paper.)

The Cookes may be in Mexico during your trip here; I'll know more about their timetable within a week; it has been suggested (offered) that a dinner be held in your honor at Joan Lundberg Hitchcock's Pacific Heights mansion, with a guest list extraordinary. I am enclosing a self-explanatory letter with three of their names circled. I'm not yet sure this is a good idea, will have to toy with the idea; you might discuss this with Jim Garrison, ask him whether or not a give-and-take between you and Mel would accomplish any useful end.

I am trying to get Wes Bowen on the phone this afternoon; (he's in a Directorate conference); will try to include details in this letter.

So far, Verb and I have you scheduled on about a dozen radio/TV shows and two campuses; you'd better bring along some throat spray.

Like Bowen just called me back; he says: Would like to toss you on from New Orleans (with Garrison if practical/possible); would like to have you spend 3-4 days (as their guest) in Salt Lake City, Ogden, Provo, etc. to exclusive appearances on KSL-AM-FM-TV, plus her satellite stations in the Mountain West (via a video tape/live hookup deal), plus possible shore wave replays throughout the world. Not bad for openers; he'll be back to me tomorrow afternoon with first timetable particulars. Plan on hitting there right after Dallas. Let me know where you'll be staying & ph #.

I'm writing a close friend with CBS-TV (KNXT in LA) who is evening local producer-writer of their late news show; will inquire as to his interest in moonlighting as our "booking" agent with radio/TV outlets down there. Should hear from him by week's end.

The plan is now for you to rush in from the airport the 10th, hit Harv's show at 9:15-11:30, grapple with some midnite sasarillahs, then you'll spend the night with he and Judy; Verb will pick you up in the AM, take you to the Dolan show in Oakland, then back over here for whatever; I have requested Counsel meet with us in midafternoon here in their board room. From Sat-Wed you'll be the guest at the Golden Gateway Center of my ALFIE partner Don MacConaugha, in a private suite for the redcarpeted.

Better get this on its way. Best to lil Lil.

Best Personal Regards,

John