

8/5/68

Dear Jonn,

At 11 o'clock last night Dick Rye phoned me to tell me that he had overheard two conversations in which a "hit" on Garrison had been discussed.

Perhaps it is imprecise to say this was its purpose. I got it out of him. Maybe he might have been reluctant, maybe he would not have volunteered. Anyway, he acknowledged two overhearings. Jim is due in New York, where Rye and Linda now live, in two days.

During the conversation, I asked him how come he selected you to report the previous one through. He said that wasn't his idea, he was asked to by Ron. But he did not know you and Ron did. Rather odd, it seems to me, for Ron to have him do it when he didn't know you instead of doing it himself. Would it be worthwhile asking Ron?

Rye says he will be in SF "within 72 hours" of last night.

Last night I also finished a short book on Lane. It is a thorough excoriation, thoroughly documented. I call him a liar, whore, crook, cheat, perverter of fact, distorter of quotes, faker, plagiarist and a few other things and in each case I prove it. 2/20 I wrote Holt about the then-advertised new book and got no answer. 6/5 I wrote Lane 2½ pages, single-spaced, documenting such accusations and got no answer. So, with a couple of days in which I didn't want to start anything new, with Vince Salandria and Gary Schoener coming for the weekend, I sat down and did it. About 27,500 words. I doubt it will ever be published, but it is done. I'll read and correct it.

Boy! Do I prove it! Particularly the plagiarism. I take his claims for himself and compare them with the truth. Like the dogblatruck PW add for his first book, where he was the first to claim being the discoverer of the "FBI report", what he lifted from me, what he and Holt did when I accused them (no response), how he tried to booby-trap TV shows against me before his book was out, photocopies of the stolen material, with photocopies of the cited fictional sources. Bet Joe Ball would give \$5,000 for it, or Louis Nizer. Liebeler would but probably wouldn't acknowledge he has it. These guys don't know their own material.

Where he claims that 15 publishers agreed to do his book and then backed out, I say what they told me. I quote his agent on the first, where he had a ~~\$15,000~~ \$1,500 advance and a contract to deliver the book by a certain date for advertised 3/15 publication and he was far from done—in fact, the new book specifies he was far from finished his interviewing. He is real nasty with Viking, which deserves it, but in his case gave him a 15-page, single-spaced critique. Where he says a publisher was afraid, that is the one publisher who would have done WHITEWASH if I'd made it hotter! I refused! I begin saying his is the one man in the world who could defame the media and libel publishers, two hit~~to~~ impossibilities. It is probably the most powerful and best-documented denunciation of a man in history. None better deserved it.

No word yet from Verb or Alenson.

How about me O in NO; Youngblood?

Best,