

May 23, 1967

Dear Hal:

I attempted to contact Starr in New York as suggested, but couldn't nail him down. He'll have to reach me instead.

Columbia's man called again this morning to inquire about the status of possible discussions on producing WHITEWASH as a motion picture project. I'm afraid the opportunity is about to pass us by. I assume Starr is apprised of matters by now, so the onus of proceeding must come from his quarters.

I am told (from a usually authoritative SOURCE) that the CBS documentary on the JFK-Warren Commission hassle is cut and dried to crucify the likes of you and Lane, et al. On the other hand - NBC has been dickering with the senior editors of LIFE, which would indicate a little counter action might be expected. ABC, no matter what you've heard, is just plain not going to delve into anything ~~that~~ requires ingenuity and class, at least I've been stymied in trying to broach the matter with a very influential ABC executive out here; maybe New York would be more receptive.

I've been trying to dig up more details on the shooting of Novel in Nashville, but no luck. Any hints from your quarter?

Garrison's public statements puzzle me; I have been under the impression the presiding judge down there told everyone to cease making public statements of any kind. Yet, Big Jim steps in front of the tube Sunday night and lets the CIA have it point blank. And he shoots down the Oswald participation in the same blast. Most peculiar.

About your publishing problems: In the case Dell craps out - let me know if you'd consider a West Coast firm to step in. There are several I can approach.

What's with ITEK Corporation, which UPI refers to as "one of the nation's top photographic laboratories"? My growing cynicism says it is another CIA lacky-front outlet. It is most interesting that the Oakland Tribune now sees fit to pooch-pooch the critics on its front page; could it be they too (former Senator Bill Knowland, turned Publisher) smell the odor of a potentially over-roasted right wing on the anti-commie's bird of paradise.

Harv is planning on calling you some time this week; I imagine he will set it up in advance.

Adendum on Dolan: Sahl got dumped by Metromedia at KLAC in LA for being too dogmatic about the deal; perhaps Dolan's turnabout was the natural reaction of one having seen the proverbial writing on the washroom wall.

Look forward to hearing (from) you at your earliest opportunity.

~~Best Personal Regards,~~