

October 13, 1967

Dear Hal:

Got the Dolan letter, then things happened, fast; I called a former associate and friend from ABC who is now a newsmen at MNGW - and asked for an introduction to Dolan; my friend, Stu Schwabe, had not as yet met Dolan, but would see to it that Dolan knew I was "straight" via a personal endorsement. I then pondered the approach.

Then, Hal verb called me, for small talk; told him that I had the manuscript, had read it over the weekend, offered some accolades; naturally, especially as a ~~writer~~ fellow writer, Verb wanted to see and absorb same; I suggested a concurrent bit, whereby he would contact Dolan, check his interest in reading & he NO work, then have Dolan call me; he did yesterday at 5 PM; we talked til after 6PM; the manuscript is being HAND DELIVERED to him via ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> friend, who lives not far away from me in San Francisco; Dolan and Verb will read it in "shifts" and see that it arrives back to me HAND DELIVERED early next week.

My conversation with Dolan was most important all round; it gave me the opportunity to engage him in give and take, about his attitudes - about you, the subject, the peripheral situation. It was MOST revealing.

Let me preface now that what follows is not a lecture, for at 35 I am not in the least qualified to lecture as such; BUT, I want to convey some observations.

Dolan, as you no doubt know, is a strange cat when compared with the run of the mill broadcaster-commentator (so is Morgan). He is his own man, be that good or bad; he cannot (will not) be force-fed anything; this is reflected in his cynical attitude generally; his psyche is born of years of frustration with management over the latitudes he demands in expression; (remember, he was fired from three jobs in a row around here.) As I said some letters back - I think I put it on tape to you - Dolan is now sitting so high up on the rating stack that he has an omnipotence that the sales department cannot coerce him anymore, politically or otherwise.

So, Dolan's hallmark is his line-of-resistance; his big hangup with you is not with your capacity to express (he is dazzled with your command of expression); it was over that one, stinking aspect of Phelan's article - the investigator's report that ~~omitted~~ omitted the "conspiracy" detailing or even mention; Dolan felt you kissed that off with too much abandon, were evasive at best.

Now, as THE academician on the subject, you see things in such a broad perspective that the Russo incident was but a pimple on an elephant's ass; to Dolan, who has not the background (but will, I can assure you now) it became important; he was smooth-talked by Airsworth and Phelan; you DO NOT smooth-talk to anyone, which sometimes becomes a liability. I am not inferring ass-kissing, for that will not get the job done either; what I am really saying is TOLERANCE for the inherent ignorance of those layfolk you NEED to get your important message across.

I went right to the line of resistance, Phelan; whatever I said, backed by his followthrough experiences, set him upon a fire, he ASKED for the manuscript, to be delivered as soon as possible; furthermore, I told him what I know to be true about the dossiers (sp) being gathered on him, Morgan and me by "them" (Did I ever tell you my source?)(WJLD!!!!)

I believe I SOLD Dolan on the simple premise that OM&N would not get themselves involved in this matter IF the facts did not warrant it. Remember, he is a law graduate from Harvard (and prides himself with some) and understands the void of such representation in this entire matter to date. Hal, this IS A COUP, the likes of which neither one of us as yet fully comprehends.

The Raynar bit bugs me; I have a proposed solution: Let's run some Classified Ads here in SF, selling PWW via my PO Box, tying this in with your interviews, etc. It's the only way right now, perhaps the only way in LA right now too, until I get ALFSE off the ground.

(Incidentally, I have already sent Dolan copies, in confidence, of the 73-page CBS bit, with your letters to both Midgeley and Salant,)(Did you know he DIDN'T have a copy of PWW??) (I SENT IT ALONG TOO!!!!) Resultantly, that man could not talk about something he didn't know a goddam thing about to start with. (THIS is what I am stressing in organizing this ballgame so that it won't be called because of foul "whethers"!!!!!!)

This is going off right behind another longer letter; I might assume I'm getting to be as proliferate as that Maryland Goose.

My kindest to the little lady standing before the Burson Burner.....

Best Personal Regards,

John

