

4/7/72

Dear Jim,

Enclosed is a copy of the uncorrected letter I have written Jerry Williams, who I know well at HSN and last night gave me a screwing the likes of which I can't remember. He let Frank ramble all over the world's irrelevancies, kept me from talking, never asked Frank to respond to anything, stopped me when I asked him to, and succeeded in giving me single fact about the evidence of the King assassination.

It will never happen again, friend or no friend. There was nothing in this for me, as there will be nothing in your show. What I did not say and I tell you in confidence is that despite this, when, after the show was off the air and his produced came on the phone, Frank was so terrified, so shaking, this Alton told me he had never seen anything like it in his life.

I do not expect this kind of treatment from you.

But I also did not expect it from Jerry. And it happened.

So in this case I want it explicit there is a fair shake at this and you keep each of us responsive. I'm not going to be a hanker for Frank's vindictive, I will face fact.

They promised me a tape of the show in advance. I wanted it for a number of reasons, one to use Frank's own voice where he refuses to confront. Hatched whether I'll get it or not I don't know. When, in the last minute, I was told maybe the station wouldn't do it (and it will be the first to refuse if they don't - what year's always did the few times I asked, and although I didn't ask often, there were no exceptions, as why should there be?) I turned the machine I use chiefly for the infrequent threats I still get for the most conversations I record on work. I then forgot and the tape ran out, so I can't know if I know that Alton-in-Hindenburg on the rifle. There was no other talk or evidence. If he refuses to confront me on your show, I'll see if I have this. If I don't, a friend may have taped it when he pulled it on long John and I may still produce it. So and then, if you have time, play it to your local gun experts or shops or, if you do not have this, I think Harry will do it as a favor for me and you can have some real good stuff. It is absolutely ridiculous and casts the whole situation in perspective.

Remember the night we met, when Harry wanted to cut off those vile slanders that were being phoned in? Remember I insisted on facing them, asked him got to cut the slanders off? I still, though aging and wearier, have faced and will face all challenges. I will still face a stacked deck, which is what being on the phone versus a studio opponent is. But I will insist on the same number of cards being dealt. I do not doubt that you would do this, but I also know the problems of running a show, getting all the commercials in and paying attention to what is being said. So, I look forward to doing your show under conditions that have no possibility of doing me any good. With you it will cost me even more sleep, for you will not go on until bedtime. But I'll expect you to cut it right down the middle. It is not that I doubt that you would intend to. I like you, must live with the realities you face in the studio. If the impossible could happen with as great a guy as Jerry Williams (and he was hollering on CBS about Viet Nam as early as you if not earlier), I have to wonder if there is anywhere it can't happen. Best regards,