

Les Whitten
1401 16 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

7/30/79

Dear Les,

Enclosed are copies of the letter I just received from Mike Ewing and my response.

I wrote you about this matter earlier so that you might be aware of the kinds of problems and costs that might lie ahead for Jack and the column.

One night after that one of your people whose speech I had trouble understanding got me up and spoke in very limited areas, saying you had suggested it.

He asked if he might call again, after he saw the committee's report. I told him of course, but please to make it earlier because, getting up early, I go to bed early.

I have not heard from him since. This causes me no suffering but I would not say this if as seems likely he is the unidentified source of the Ewing letter.

The Times, the Post and the two New Orleans papers appear to be much less likely.

I've been warning you all along about libel, not in the sense that the column is going to be sued for it but rather because honest reporters do not want to write and publish what is not true or what is exaggerated or distorted.

Or, of course, want to mislead a large part of the country on such important questions.

When I wrote you I believe I told you that there was more with which I felt I'd best not trouble you. Believe me, friend, there is and I have more than enough of it. In the end it can have me accused of defending the CIA, and I have them in court, too.

If you don't mind a suggestion for your younger people it would be to get one of the old posters reading "Remember the Maine!" and to make copies for each of their walls with Maine stricken through and Bagleton written in.

Best wishes