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1/9/78

Harold Weisberg  
Frederick Maryland 21701

Dear Harold:

After several days of intense work I returned to the Deantonio papers which the State Historical Society permitted to be shipped to our library for supervised use, an advantage of a system. Before making a comment about Mr. Lane I would remark that numerous photographs and the movie RTJ are deposited in the SHS at Madison, their film and photo libraries, including shots etc of Tague and presumably the doctors at Dallas, taken from the news footage. I have yet to check all of this out, but the listing of held items suggests it.

The more I read of the back ground of Mr. Lane the more I am certain it fits into the category of the grotesque. Thus far here is what I have learned:


1. Deantonio had to stop making a documentary of Russell because Lane insisted on being an integral part of it. !!!!! (i.e. appearing on the film.)
2. D. wrote Lane's part that appeared on the film RTJ, the manuscript is clear and D states so in a letter.
3. D. originated the film idea ~~in~~ in 2/64
4. After D & Mr. Lane had formed Judgment Films and had signed a contract with Vanguard records to sell the sound track ~~to~~ RTJ, Mr. Lane silently sold rights to another company (actually companies, but the proof for just one and the legal tangle is all that is here.) and D had to fight him over it. D. in a letter calls Lane unethical and dishonest and an egomaniac on the record ~~and~~ sell out.
5. I have a copy of the BBC contract with Judgment films and the price was \$5,000~~0~~ down and 25,000 after the showing for a total of \$30,000. Part of the agreement was the price would never be mentioned. (Of course D and Lane held a press conference to announced it!)
6. I have yet to find a mention of any effort to re-open~~e~~ the investigation, to assist the nation in resolving the crime, etc. All is money, advantage, selling, corners on air time, promos.

And so it goes. I continue with the unpleasant task, but do think there is enough with this and the other to drive a silver stake of truth into Lane. But I must build up the evidence and documents slowly and carefully and now must interview the soiled and abused young people, etc.

For Farewell America I have just read Lamia. It was well worth the time and will be important to me. I look forward to interviewing ~~in~~ you for some detail on the characters involved, the time sequence, etc.

Regards

P.S. -20° & wind, the kids said even  
the tough kid wimpered waiting for the bus.

Dave 

Department of History • (715) 346-2334

Dear Dave,

1/13/78

At suppertime, while I await a callback from outsleepless friend Munkie Jim, rather than have supper I've begun with the day's mail. Your letter of the 9th is the reflection of impressive search. I'll send Howard and Jim copies and suggest you intend this to be confidential, which you do not say.

When I can mail a copy of my letter to "riffin" Bell and whatever Jim prepares you will understand his sleeplessness, his anger and that I make mistakes only when I ever trust any official. I keep saying I must learn but I'm deficient on this.

I suggest that you might also want to write about Lane to the remnants of the Russell people. Deep somewhere I have a memo from the period before they threw Schoenmann out. Ralph then told me he was trying to recover something like \$20,000 Lane had beat the foundation out of on RTJ film. When it was convenient for these two whores they returned to their common bed. They might provide you with much. (Don't forget to reread that precious part of Citizen's Dissent. DC part.)

Lane is telling people he has completed his movie, titled to me The Trial of Martin Luther King. (Jim and I both think it was meant to be of JER.) Lane wrote the script, from tapes I have. His is the central character. He also plays the central character. How modest can one get before it is a fault.

He's building it up. I hope you continue to dig and that it is as productive. At the right time write to D. He may come across with much more.

Jim has a tough one for Monday 11 a.m. because among other things he is overworked and tired from it, has too many other pressures and is in what for him is a new field of law. It is on our request for a temporary injunction and remission of fees. (We both guessed accurately what they would hold. But neither dreamed they would be as totally abandoned in their personal vilification. I've risen to this, if also in haste and by working until the a.m. without even a text before me, in the letter to AG Bell. I've also arranged for a press conference for 2:30 Monday. AP and UPI will cover and are to have on their wire. Meaning to announce it to the rest of the press. I know this means DJ too, (The FBI uses UPI. Meanwhile, as I told Jim, I think I've made some money for both UPI and AP, rather than we have and I saw it, and they appear not to disagree. If the FBI now has to make any refunds that will add to Jim's cogent argument that this bitter-enders are wasting large federal sums to continue to be vindictive toward me. By the amounts of the refunds. Both have already made the request for a full recovery.

We may not beat them—Jim hears they have an entire team working on us—but I guarantee you we make them regret.

Your note re your weather: ours is nothing like that bad but we had enough snow today to make it difficult for Jim to get around in DC, where they go apace with a thin film. Ours is deep. I've not heard the radio news. Retyping what I did with her typewriter acting up is extremely taxing for Lil. She put a stack of jazz records on and they continue to play. Also to my taste and good for the mood. Like marching music to me. Our snow is deep. Jim, who wisely does not have snow tires for his car, will be depending on public transportation. poor man!

Thanks for the bad news that is so confirmatory of all the bad I've known about Lane for so long. It is good news because when the time comes it will be bad news to him.

Best to all,