

Dear Dave,

11/14/73

As we both know, my writing you cannot help me in any way. That I do knowing this is because I regard you as a decent man who does not want to do what is not decent. When one deals with a Mark Lane there is no ultimate obscenity. There is merely another in an endless progression. If he comes to Washington to promote your flick, or rather if he gets major-media attention when he does on the 23rd, you will be involved in at least one if his last night's appearance on the Jerry Williams show means anything. (WBZ, Boston, a great guy and an old friend of Mark's, a partisan.)

If I had known that the whisper to Panorama was from you I might not have confronted them with the difficulty I did deliberately. Part of my reason was for regard for what I regarded as your personal interest, your reputation with clients. I know what I have done to this exploiter of the principled and I don't think the weight of the years and weariness would prevent it. Only losing my temper, quite possible, could.

Had I heard the Jerry Williams show before another TV approach, I would have content myself with "Yassuh, ma'am." Now I look forward to a chance after killing two. Know this if you are again tempted. I don't think there should be any confusion in the popular mind between a Mrs. Warren and a St. Joan. Particularly not in time of Watergate.

(On this you should know that he is exploiting two things of which he has no knowledge, something about Ford and something else about Jaworski. The exploitation, aided and abetted by journalistic cowardice and prejudices, may redound to the benefit of both. He knows so little, having done so little work, that he fails to see the way in which one of these is uniquely suited to exploitation for the film.)

I can't take time to tick off all the public indecencies of last night's show. He is smooth, persuasive, an accomplished and untroubled liar, so it was an effective promo. The effectiveness bothers me because aside from promoting the commercial it promotes a corruption of many truths I regard as important.

He retold a story he knew was false when he first told it and he did that on a TV show of which I have a tape that I gave him, one I had committed to do and he wanted time for his second book, which I had not read when I agreed. Were it merely another of his lies, I would not take the time. It happens that it involves me, not him, so I know the truth. Not knowing your political opinions or what you think of the Kennedys I don't know how, except as I believe decent people should, you will regard what I think its consequences are.

He has two variations of the same bullshit, that Bobby sent a secret representative to Garrison (variation, twice sent) and assured him that while Bobby could say nothing publicly he was all for him privately and that he believed in those who do not believe the official assassination mythology.

In November 1966 I happened to be in New Orleans when Garrison told me, not Mark, that Bobby's former roommate was in town and what did I think he should say if the guy looked him up. I think the name was Lynn or Lind. Because I had wanted Garrison to say a little less and do a little more and to stop saying the unwise I suggested in the form of questions that he shut up about Bobby. He agreed. I have no reason to believe any more than that Garrison heard this guy was in town and conjectured. If he ever saw Garrison, that is one of the few things about which Jim did not spout off, and he is incapable of keeping a confidence.

In April 1968, the Monday after the King assassination, I happened to be in the Fontainebleau motel in New Orleans when the son of Jed Harris and Ruth Gordon, Jones Harris, was in the motel. He called me when he heard I was in town. He was there with a boxer in whom he held an interest. He had always represented himself as a Bobby man, but I have no personal knowledge of it. Because of this posture, I was needling him about Bobby's exaggerated false statements (quite the opposite of Lane's representation) at San Fernando State College) and Jones explained them as covering up for Bobby's real belief, that there were already too many guns between him and the White House. When I asked "Who's guns?" he said, in a graphic way without mentioning the initials, CIA. It happens I had feared and predicted that Bobby would be killed. I recall one in a letter to Jess Unruh just before this. Because Garrison did have a police department

upon which he could draw and could reach other police departments, I took Jones, who knew Garrison well, right down to Jim's office and he told this story, not the one Lane tells, which is commercial as it can be. No more and no proof.

The week after Bobby was assassinated I was in New York making a speech when Jones asked me to have dinner with him. He then told me that he had either had word or had the feeling that it would happen in California and that three weeks before it did happen, he had tried to warn Bobby's people.

When Lane pulled this obscenity on me on WFAN, young Nighthower's show, I was so shocked I called him a liar to his face on camera and proceeded to prove it. But when he was forced to admit that he lied, that did not discourage a promising exploitation. He spanned the land with it, the major promotion for a remarkably dishonest book, his second, which could have served an important end if it had not been dishonest.

Now he is adding a special interpretation of the Kennedy "library letting Hollywood have prints of newsreel footage: they agree with the doctrine of Executive Action.

I happen to believe that the Kennedy family position serves neither their nor the national interest. I happen also to know that it is opposite Lane's representation. If Bobby could have done more to disassociate himself from Garrison than he did, I can't think of what he could have done. When the private dick, Gurvich, defected, he gave him a private audience and then issued a statement to the papers. His ramrod on Hoffa, Walter Sheridan, went down to New Orleans and did a rather disreputable attack on Garrison for NBC, a TV special. And the first time Bobby had to go to Louisiana after Garrison surfaced, he enlisted the governor's help in getting assurances that Garrison would not subpoena him.

Lane is clever, quoting the dea only and knowing that Garrison will not call him a ~~bad~~ liar. At the time Lane first started commercializing this lie, Garrison did do everything up to that point, as if it interests them your Hollywood people can readily learn, for it was on KHJ, which is in Hollywood, and to a reporter who remains a friend of mine.

With the gang he is to be with on the 23rd, you can expect anything. The most reputable are paranoids. You can't restrain them or him. You may not want to try, and I ask nothing of you. I ~~was~~ merely report. I do not think you want this kind of genuinely and deliberately evil blood exploitation to be associated with what you are associated with. It is not necessary anyway. It is Lane's vengeance.

The promotion I had and you were to have called my young friend to get I have back. I have made copies of it and two others. They are much worse. I presume your people do not want them, so I'll be returning the originals. However, I will keep the copies.

You should know that whether it happens or not, there is a chance of your people becoming involved in what I think even today is a libel suit over another exploitation. Lane is a cagey bastard, so he used no names in pulling this line last night. However, he and National General are associated with others less foresighted and they have named names. Avon is also involved. Avon was careful, but these people are not. They have crossed the line repeatedly. The last I saw was puked into The "ealist. It is so sick I could not finish it. I tried to turn these nuts off but could not.

There is, for me, a special irony in all of this, aside from my assassination work. There are these Hollywood Ten people involved in this. When they were in trouble I had completely researched a book I was doing on Dies and his committee. One night one of the Ten turned up with a man I knew from when I worked for the Senate. They wanted what I had so they could defend themselves. They left with boxes, with enough original evidence (no xeroxes then) to put Dies in jail. They took a complete file of clippings that can't be replaced, a hunk of history. I never got it back and they were too cowardly and too unsophisticated (variations among the 10) to use any of it. I never got it back, not so much as a scrap.

Please excuse the typos.

Sincerely,

11/14/73

Dear Barry,

Action

This morning's biased treatment of Executive/Is, despite the unhidden pre-determination and prejudice, faithful in spirit. I take it to represent a Post editorial determination ~~it~~ was lots of spaces- so herewith a carbon of a letter to a friend who is connected with promoting it.

It is FII. If I confront Lane, face-to-face, I will again say those things to his face. Unlike him, I will not do it when he cannot respond.

I hope the Post elects not to report the obscenities. It is elects otherwise, at least you'll know where you can learn more.

There was worse on that WFAW show. Lane is the most brazen crook in the world. He had plagiarized from me in both his books. I jammed the then current one down his throat, if in anger, when he gave me no choice, and another done for me, and he actually justified plagiarism on the air. When we were not live, the cameras not rolling while canned commercials did, he said that after the show he'd punch me in the nose. I asked him, "Why wait?" and he did not accept the challenge then or after the show.

I have the ~~ft~~ tape made by a friend who was in the studio. ~~It~~ was not clandestine. Lane placed the mike so it would pick him up. The friend had a book-and-author radio show and could not use the tape!

Lane is also exploiting other current events having no real relationship with his movie, which he in parts has had to disown, but that he does cleverly, too. The failure of the Post to do a Jaworski story means that Washington will get a special version from him, as the listeners to WBZ did last night.

Sincerely,