

Listening to Lane last night made me realize more than before how much we have lost because he and Garrison are amoral and consumed by their own egos and because with these liabilities they also never did any original work (except on ~~Shaw~~ Shaw!). Both are extremely able men and each is utterly unprincipled. Both are the most effective speakers. Both are almost entirely unflappable. I have blown Lane a couple of times simply by not sitting by in silence at his crookedness. It is not that hard to blow him. His good fortune is that having no basic principle he can say anything and his opposition has always been symbolic of the incredible. The reality is that both also are lazy, except that Lane is not when it comes to appearances for which he'll be paid. He'll work bad hours then. The unique thing about him is his exploitation of decent principle. He latches onto what should be latched onto, and I don't doubt his sincerity in doing it, as with the Vietnam soldiers or currently with the Indians (although I find myself wondering why he has picked them with what that kind of living means, unless it is to obscure something else). In retrospect I believe that he and Garrison have both hurt the establishing of a believed truth because both were so inherently incredible to the media, which was enough of a problem without this. Both could easily, especially ex parte, be destroyed to any management before airing. Thus they transferred this attitude to all others, especially those less well known. That is why it was so easy for Sheridan to do a libellous anti-Garrison show for NEC. Under no other circumstances would any net have aired that show but the combination of the initial prejudice plus what Sheridan could produce that was the real Garrison. (Lane has a clever way of bypassing this now: the press laughed at Garrison from the first because he said there was a conspiracy, not because of what immediately followed this. The truth is that Garrison began with an extensive and not unfair press. That might not have lasted, but he saw to it.) Lane is still exploiting the known lie, that Bobby sent emissaries to Garrison. He repeated it several times last night and gives it credibility by reporting that the film's producers were able to get footage from the JFK Library. EW 11/11/72