

Dear Jim,

10/12/76

More on the Mann act. (pun)

The lead article in the Pittsburgh Press TV section 10/1/76 is headed, "Pittsburgh Writer Uncovers New King Evidence." Subhead "Research for NBC Drama." The claim to newness and ~~original~~ originality of work is emphasized in the lead by Barbara Holsopple (right): "New evidence uncovered by writer-producer Abby Mann has been turned over to the special House committee reopening the investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Mann, a former Pittsburgher, turned up the information while researching a drama ~~for~~ he is writing about King for NBC."

It then reports that Mann turned this all over the Fauntroy, etc. and says he will be among the first witnesses.

"Mann said some of the new evidence deals with the stripping of security at the motel where King was shot...; 'important information' from a former FBI agent, and statement from other key witnesses." One is described as only Redditt.

"...the more facts I (sic) uncover the more disturbed I become!...Mann's script for the three-hour film which he has just completed writing is about King's life, not the assassination..."

Well, it is clear that the NBC legal department did write me the lawyer's letter I suspected, with the typical smeanical evasions of what I said, by using language other than mine. Ha, hum. Federalese sure gets around.

I'll let them respond, as they said they would after further inquiry.

This is the kind of electrostatic copy that is hard for me to read and is not suitable for further copying. I'll ask my source if I can have the original. I think that for Les and me both this is important.

My source is one of the most dependable. If the former Pittsburgher makes the papers there again, have no doubt I'll get it!

I'll carbon Les, so he'll know.

The ethics of these ~~writh~~ wretched people!

Mann is doing a script, or has it completed. Lane has been working with him. NBC described it as a "special," I think in their net broadcast for NBC News. So what does Lane do once it is all written? He goes out to Hollywood and makes a pitch to one to whom Paul had spoken for me, for a movie. In short, he tried to con a producer into producing what Lane does not have except as with Mann, knowing Mann had done that and that it would be aired by NBC.

I think I'll write Fauntroy further, this time telling him that if he goes ahead I'll hold a press conference and make of him the jackass he has made of himself. That ~~shit~~ would not ~~at~~ talk about this when it made a difference. Now that it can get his name in the papers, he goes with an NBC ripoff. I'll kill this Mann/Lane/Fauntroy deal very publicly now if something doesn't happen to rectify the nasty things they have done. It may have a good effect on the committee, too. But I'll not write until after I speak to Les, who also wrote Fauntroy. I think Les may want to call his office first. He may not. We have not discussed this.

If I do I'll send copies to the entire committee. I may write Rick earlier and tell him what lies ahead if there is any more of this. If their eye is going to be on the tube rather than the fact the earlier it is certain the better and the less unsafe.

Best,

P.S. This Mann statement to the paper was long after he received my letter putting him on notice, long after I first wrote NBC's president by certified return-receipt mail. Mann got my letter, if I'm not saying how I know here.

Press Oct 1, 76

Research For NBC

Pittsburgh Writer Uncovers

By BARBARA HOLSOPPLE
Press TV - Radio Editor

New evidence uncovered by writer-producer Abby Mann has been turned over to the special House committee reopening the investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Mann, a former Pittsburgher, turned up the information while researching a drama he is writing about King for NBC.

About a month ago, Mann took his findings to a former King aide, Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.). Fauntroy confirmed that Mann will be among the first witnesses called to testify when the new committee hearings begin later this year.

Mann said some of the new evidence deals with the stripping of security at the motel where King was shot in Memphis; "important information" from a former FBI agent, and state-

ments from three other key witnesses.

The latter include a detective who was removed from his job as a King security agent and placed in custody two hours before the assassination.

"I'd rather not try the case in the newspaper," Mann said. "But the more facts I uncovered the more disturbed I became and the more convinced I was that there should be a new investigation."

Mann's script for the three-hour film, which he has just completed writing, is about King's life, not the assassination.

Mann won an Academy Award for writing "Judgement at Nuremberg" and was the creator of last season's "Medical Story."



ABBY MANN
Expected to testify.

ANOTHER EX-PITTSBURGH writer, Joseph Wambaugh, says his "Police Story" Nov. 23 at 10 p.m. on NBC has a climax that is "a leap into

Drama

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New King Evidence

reality which even 'Police Story' has seldom dared to attempt."

The drama is based on the true story of a little girl shot by a sniper who cannot be convicted because the evidence-bullet is lodged close to the brain of the comatose victim.

DON HO will host a comedy-variety show in the ABC daytime line-up, starting Oct. 25 at noon, replacing "Hot Seat."

CAPSULE CRITIQUE: "Alice" was reviewed last month in its preview outing, but we did find the premiere well done this week. However, four shows about homosexuality in one week is a bit much; four shows on any one topic the same week would be a bit much. Discharging a quota?

THE FIRST HOCKEY game of the

season airs Monday at 7:30 p.m. on KDKA-Radio with Mike Lange calling the action with Vancouver. First TV game is Oct. 28 at Philadelphia, on WIIC.

BILL CARDILLE opens his 13th season of "Chiller Theater" on WIIC tomorrow with a new Transylvania castle set.

THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC Orchestra will be heard in a series of 13 concerts on WQED-FM Radio, starting tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. The Chicago Symphony opens its 39-week season on the station Sunday at 9 (and, of course, the Pittsburgh Symphony is heard each Tuesday at 8).

Winners of the National Public Radio Young People's Festival will be

heard on WYEP's "Kid's World" Sunday at 8 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS on the effects of TV violence on children will be held Nov. 30 at the William Penn Hotel. Requests for testimony before the PTA-sponsored sessions should be made by Oct. 15 to Mrs. Betty Jean Williams, 341 Bellefield Ave., Pittsburgh 15213.

The hearings will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and from 7 to 9 p.m. Nov. 30.

Weekend's Best

TONIGHT

11:30 p.m.—1 a.m. — "Tonight," Channels 6, 7, 11.

TOMORROW

9-11 — "Hollywood TV Theater," Channel 13.

SUNDAY

9:30-11 — "Sunday Mystery Movie," Channels 6, 7, 11.