

New Address: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

2/20/68

Mr. Moss Martin
1345 Sacramento St., #2
San Francisco, Calif. 94109

Dear Mr. Martin,

My absence prevented earlier answer to your letter of February 8. My wife conveyed its essence to me by phone and I, in turn, turned it over to others in San Francisco to see if Mr. Caen's source could be identified. I also initiated other investigations which may or may not establish this, one way or the other.

As I tried to convey to you, I do, very much, appreciate your gesture at cooperation, and I believe it serves many interests, particularly the most important national one. I have also communicated it to Jim Garrison and he believes that if you can do several of the things you said you'd try, they could be valuable. I hope you will, as you indicated, try.

First, I should like to tell you two names of people to be in touch with. In San Francisco, among those working with me, is Hal Verb, 923A Fulton St., 557-5534. He was in the KSFR studio with me when I made the broadcast and has an excellent knowledge of the case. I trust him implicitly. From our earlier discussions of homosexuality in San Francisco, I am confident you will find him entirely without bias. Also, it is possible a man with a prominence in San Francisco, may want to speak to you. He also is helping us. You can always communicate anything you might want indirectly with Jim Eason, should that situation arise. He is my friend and also believes the issue is a vital national one. You said you'd try and locate contacts in San Francisco who might help us track down leads in the homosexual, especially SM, community. Your initial presumption, for it sounded like more than a suspicion, was quite correct. There is broad evidence of such an involvement. Mr. Verb can explain it and indicate the kind of information that should be checked out, either way.

You said you thought you might be able to locate a New Orleans homosexual who might be willing to cooperate. If he is a mature man, he will know without my telling him that the attitude of the Garrison office is not reactionary. There is one man in that office with whom I'd like him to communicate, a younger lawyer who was raised in the French Quarter. Garrison confirms that he is the proper man. His name is Sciembra. The office number is 822-2414.

It is my sincere belief that the best interest of homosexuals is served by assistance in the development of truth, whatever it is. I believe this may offset some of the inevitable adverse consequences of the case, for there is no avoiding the involvement that already exists and is, to a degree, public. Putting it on a simpler basis, it is the best and most necessary kind of public relations. I am aware of the closeness of the community and the need for this, but I am also aware of the awful witchhunt that can ensue if those who have a vested interest in frustrating truth feel it necessary to begin one. This is one of the two most obvious misdirections to which they, with their power and influence, might try and direct attention and interest.

If there is any evidence of good faith required, please let me know what it is. And my sincere thanks. Yours, Harold Weisberg

Moss Martin
1345 Sacramento St., #2
San Francisco, Calif. 94109

Feb. 8, 1968

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I've traced my "lead" down on that information I gave you and in a way it's useless unless you could get to the source who is Herb Caen, the gossip columnist here in SF. He ran an item some time ago implying what I told you. Unfortunately, I don't know when-- probably along with some news story about Garrison.

sincerely,

M. M.