

11/25/66

Dear Sylvia,

The Nizer thing is good. Yours? ... Merriman Smith acknowledged faulty recollection in placing himself in the motorcade in a letter printed yesterday by the Washington Post, three days at least after they got mine, not yet printed but possibly might now be in an effort to make me look ridiculous. My challenge to Smith to debate him in his field, writing, after he ~~expressed~~ refused to debate me in front of the National Press Club, is unanswered. He's been invited to debate me in Chicago and if he doesn't show, I'll read "Merriman Smith vs Merriman Smith.... Sorry about the carbons. Our financial condition is not good because the wholesalers do not pay. You will possibly not be willing to believe it, but all sorts of vile things continue to be played on us, including commercially... Hence I use the carbons after my wife says they should no longer be used. She does the important correspondence, where it must look good, and I use the carbons thereafter. I use this onionskin, for example, because someone gave me 2,000 sheets of it. That means it is something for which I need not put out cash. I was not on the Barry Gray show the night you were because I just could not afford the air fare and, with a series of X-ray examinations scheduled for that a.m., had no time to drive.... Further, there has been a consistent and successful effort to deny me publicity, even reference. If you think about this, of those things you know if you can but remember, this is and has consistently been true, especially in the smaller and liberal publications. For example, you talk of Boston. I have no idea what you are talking about. No one ever consults me about these things and there seems to be a concerted effort to preclude me from them. I do nothing about it because there is not enough time for the constructive things I might do. Someone did a job on me at NBC. I know Lane's people really did rotten things to me in California. Our mutual friends overheard some of it after Arthur Cohen promised in writing to cease and desist... So, I will not be in Boston and presume that some day I'll find out what it was.... With the Educational TV net, similar things happen. I've been in touch with them going back to May. Once they used me, in a way other than promised, on tape, and in a manner that just made Epstein look better when he was live and I laid the basis for him... So ETV has taped Lane and Epstein, not me, yet they've been stalling with me since May. Maybe there is something about me, but I doubt it. I perform better than any of the others on either radio and TV. You should see my mail... I'll have to try and get a copy of the SR. I doubt very much if they used the entire letter!... Time held me on the phone for a while, too... I've heard nothing from the WSJ... I wrote Gould, who hasn't answered... If your recollection of the TV show is right, there was different editing in DC... LIFE is helpful, but it brings the time for witchhunting closer... I've not heard from Penn for a while so I presume he's on the road... I've recommended publication of his book to one who is interested and offered to write an introduction... My own book is now done... I'll be in Calif. for six days in December.... Word from Bill last week is that everyone out there is disgusted with and finished with Lane, including even Ray... Liebel is being challenged to debate me. Maybe he will, but I think not... Specter has declined at least six times... Apparently plain, ordinary people were quite impressed with the TV show. I keep hearing from people who missed it, heard about it, and want to know if it will be shown again... I'm coming up to NY soon and if I'm not too pushed, maybe we can get together for supper. This time I'm too tired to drive and may have fewer problems... Yesterday's AP story on Humes will ultimately be helpful.... Some of those who have scolded off lately already regret it.

Sincerely,

21 November 1966

Dear Harold,

As usual these days, this will have to be rushed...Your letter to the editor of SR appeared in the issue dated 11/12/66 page 38, together with my own, or excerpts therefrom--the letter that offended you for reasons which you still have not explained.

I have had a telephone interview with John Wingate of WOR radio today, to be played tomorrow night at 6:15 p.m. NY. This will reach you too late to listen, even if it is heard in Maryland, which I doubt.

Last week a Time reporter wasted a whole evening for me in an interview but Time of today did not use it at all, for which I am really glad. They write about the critics with pen dipped in sheer venom, with a facade of objectivity through which it is easy to see. Was also interviewed last week by Wall St. Journal, 2 hours--wonder if that will be used at all?

The 3-hour TV show was very favorably received by ordinary people if not by such high-powered critics as Jack Gould. So far as I recall, I think the Tippit bullets segment was included; the "I'll stop when you stop lying" I am absolutely certain about.

You will have seen Life by now; I think it is very helpful indeed, both the extremely clear frames and the Connallys' categorical statements. It's a great leap forward for the ex-godmother of the WR, isn't it?

It was very hard to make out many of the words in your letter to UPI Smith but I got the general drift, and he deserved every word of it. He is an insufferable, self-approving, ignorant fraud and I hope you mince him proper.

Did you get a call from Boston for the 30th? I simply could not do it because of my office duties and strongly urged them to get you if possible or Vince. I hope that they did call you, and that you were able to accept, since Cohen will take part and Penn Jones is entirely too weak in facts and personal forcefulness to cope with that skyster.

Must rush! Never imagined it was possible to be so unrelentingly busy and harried, never a moment to rest, relax, or just plain think. I know it is the same for you, even without a 9 to 6 routine.

My best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Lynn'.