Hyattstown, Maryland 20734

December 26, 1966

Mr. Jack Gould
TV-Radio Critic
The New York Times
Times Square
New York, New York 1036

Dear Mr. Gould:

Thank you for your letter of December 8. I quite agree with you that "TV overall could be more careful in the planning of such programs", etc., and the networks could be a lot more generous with time on such a vital issue.

Nor could I agree more than I do with your opinion "that the dignified pursuit of truth is the criterion ...". We have been denied it by the networks, the Commission's former counsel and almost without exception by the newspapers. Your own book review depsrtment refused to acknowledge the existence of my first book on the ground that, in effect, a private printing does not exist (all 22,500 copies of it).

However, if you really want to know why what you seek is not available, please call Mel Baily at WNEW and see if he feels free to tell you what happened when I appeared for a "Majority Report" program to find no opposition.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

The New York Times
TIMES SQUARE NEW YORK N Y 10036

December 8, 1966

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Farm
Hyattstown, Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Many thanks for your kind note.

Believe me, I didn't mean to suggest the Warren report had not been heard. But I do feel that when critics of the report cite extensive detail, it is important to include what the report itself concluded. The layman is certainly not likely to retain such data over many years, and needs help in understanding the points the critics are endeavoring to make. I think the matter could have been handled readily by a moderator who really knew what was in the report and by skilled questioning could have improved the presentation.

It is of interest that members of the commission refused to appear on the WNEW presentation. I wonder when they were asked, because two members did appear on WNBC within hours of the airing of the WNEW program. I assume that WNEW held the tape for many weeks. I wonder if this was quite cricket in the case of such a swiftly moving story. The commission obviously is coming off its high horse a little.

As I am sure you have noticed, The Times has been extensively covering all the latest developments, including the program on which you appeared. I think the dialogue is well started now and undoubtedly will grow for years. I was interested in your ordeal on the Alan Burke show. Though you were unfairly treated in that instance, does it not suggest that TV overall could be more careful in the planning of such programs so that the dignified pursuit of truth is the criterion, not turning a discussion into a battle which must provide "winners" and "losers."

Sincerely,
Jack Gould

Jack Gould
TV-Radio Critic