

3/20/69

Dear Jerry,

I'll be in NYC Tuesday afternoon, Friday until afternoon, and possibly part of Saturday on my return. I do not yet know what my exact plans are. The most important single thing will be to find time to see a lawyer who make undertake some of my work.

C
O
P
Y

In our phone conversations, Bob Murphy seems like a fine young man. Last time we spoke he was to call me back. I'm still waiting. I tried to be helpful and frank - and to buoy him when those wild people who have been hearing all the wild tales want blood from him whereas he could offer but water. It is I who suggested the series on the assassination and the Shaw trial to him. However, I suggested a special format, one in which I can guarantee his accuracy. I will not be part of any other. There is nothing in whatever I do for me save the unpaid expenditure of time. I certainly will have nothing to do with anything that has a large retailing of my work over the name of another or others, at which I must preserve my silence, or the wild imaginings of those who prefer imagining to the hard and costly work of checking out and proving. If you give him Sprague as a man of tested accuracy, you are going through the whole Garrison syndrome again. Dick has done a fine job of gathering pictures. He has checked out none of the things of which he talks so persuasively and almost caused us the greatest disasters with them, believe me. When I asked his sources for his statements and checked them I found either that they did not relate or said the opposite. Sounds better Dick's way, as it did Garrison's. But look where one got us and ~~ix~~ imagine where the other will. I'm having nothing more to do with such things. I know hot when once burned. Dick is a fine guy and I like him personally. He is uncritical, if himself or others, notoriously Garrison. I will not even do a show with him.

In fact, there today is almost no one with whom I will, for there is almost no one who has anything new and substantive, checked out and found worthy of serious consideration. Because there is nothing in these for me, the least I can do is seek to preserve my reputation. Everybody wants to be a big-shot and an expert on the cheap, bask in what he imagines is Garrison's glow. What almost happened is beyond belief.

If you discuss this with Murphy, let me explain that for all these years WBAI has had no interest in me. They several times approached me and then dropped it, using others (unheard by me). I did three long shows for their Los Angeles station, excellent, responsible shows with an excellent man, Bill O'Connell. I presume they all went on all three Pacifica stations. I have yet to get the first order, I presume because for my "pay" for this time they kept my address off the air. That kind of radio also does not interest me. I have things I would be giving them for nothing, things it is beyond their capacity to buy. In return I will expect that which it is within their power to give me. I invited Murphy down here and said I'd turn whatever he wanted over to him. Let him and them do otherwise. He'll get second-hand stuff or a pile of shit, nothing else. And I will not take the time while I am in NY to do a one-shot. I have too little time there anyway, and I have sought none of the major shows.

It is not time to get any publicity for the Frenchy photo. That is from the overflowed toilet. The work has never been checked out. I know what I am talking about. Until you know a) who the men in the pictures are and all of the circumstance of how and where they were taken into custody, you know nothing.

Until you know all the circumstances under which the sketch was made, you also know nothing. I tell you the former is other than Dick gives it. He now has new identities, and is no less persuaded of his complete accuracy as he once was of the former identities now, hopeless, from his new "proof" inaccurate. All we need is for one of these bums to be found and file a libel action, which can easily be inspired.

Even the history of the use of these pictures is other than Trent and Dick represents. If you want to do only worthwhile things, stay out of such sensations - profit from the mistakes of other, including me.

C I agree re Ray and have been trying to interest those who might be able to do something. Unfortunately, they are all Garrisonians in their approaches, all fill with regrets each time they make the same tactical error. I wrote a book on this months ago. Today no word requires changing. I will be adding an epilogue is soon as I am up to it. I'm getting over an extremely enervating fever.

O I take this time I do not have, Jerry, hoping to get you to think these things through for yourself, not to blindly take the untested words of others, for in that direction lies but trouble. There is virtually no solid, checked out work being done, believe me. What the government can get away with, we cannot.

P The NYPost 3/12 story does sound significant (Stevens not certain he can identify Ray). I'd like a copy and anything they carry but in the other papers. That sheet is not on sale here.

Y I'll try and phone you, but I do not know my schedule, do not know what I'll have to be doing.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

3/16/69

Dear Harold,

Just a quick note to let you know that I found an apartment in Forest Hills, and so if you need accommodations when you're in town you're welcome.

I'm not moving in until the middle of April, but my new address at that time will be 99-24 65th Road, Forest Hills, Queens. At any rate, I can continue to receive mail etc at my present address because my parents will still be here and my name will stay on the mail box.

Not much else is happening here. I got together with Bob Murphy (WB71) the other day, and he's planning on doing a series

on the assassination and the Adams
trial. The night we got together Dick
Sprague was showing his photos to
Trent's class at Atlantic Univ., and
I took Murphy up there. He was impressed,
and he offered to make some air
time on WBAI available to Dick. I
don't know if they've made any final
arrangements.

It seems ~~like~~ as if the Ray
fiasco is the straw that broke the
camels back. Do you think that per-
haps the media is at last waking up
to the implications of what's going on ar-
ound them? I wonder how the justice
dept. is going to squirm out of this one.
This is the time to get as much public-
ity as possible for the Frenchy photo.
Incidentally Charles Stephens is quoted
in the NY Post of 3/12 as saying "I'm
not even sure I can identify the
man I saw as Ray."

Gotta go. I have lots of homework.

Sincerely,
Phil