

12/28/75

Dear Alan,

I delayed sending you the enclosed in the hope I'd receive wire-service stories and news clippings based on my release of new evidence from FBI files on the King assassination. My usual sources have not supplied the wire copy, I saw only one story, in the Washington Post (and have mislaid it!), and the first of a series of what I expect to be new whitewashes will be aired before you can receive this. I expect more of the same is possible from the Times, which has thrice delayed a series that has taken much of my time.

However, you may want to make some effort based on this new King attention. So, I'm sending you with this a batch of clippings the headlines of which may serve your purposes if you do. In addition, I am in court on this (C.A.75-1996) and expect more than I've released. When the papers gave what I gave away no attention, despite heavy radio coverage and CBS-TV news coverage, I decided to try to make an effort to sell a story based on it. I've made several approaches. Otherwise I'd send you copies of the copies of the FBI's files.

There has always been less interest in the King assassination, particularly among blacks. Although I wrote the only book opposing the official version I've never been asked to make a speech on it. Aside from whatever psychological factors may underlie this, there is the endless insanity typified by what Dick Gregory is doing, now joined by Abernathy. All that stuff is worse than garbage. He is crazy.

This now seems to be changing. My press conference was sponsored by a black Congressman with whom I'm to have more meetings after the recess. I am also working with a black reporter, who has made a proposal to his newspaper, which has a syndicate.

It is possible that the whitewashes I expect may turn black campuses on. I have no way of knowing so I can't encourage you to spend money on a King flyer. I do suggest, though, that including one with the JFK material might generate some interest on white campuses. I have plenty of visuals but see no need to make slides until there is a need.

Speaking of slides, please let me know promptly the kind of tray to get to carry the JFK slides in. I would like them to be in place for the Waynesboro program.

And speaking of that, please let me know the arrangements as soon as possible. While I can walk more and more easily if a student wants to go with me I'll have to make the arrangements. Sure helped with Belin! Whether or not one does, I'll still want to arrange transportation to National Airport. I drove to Washington two weeks ago and it was too much. I can't keep my legs pendant that long. That and the need for more rest are the only immediate problems. I have done a number of talk shows that lasted for hours and several into the wee hours, by phone. I've also met the obligations I told you I had to speak without fee at Maryland and Georgetown with no problems.

Back to King and the unpredictable: the Washington Post reporter who wrote the story I've lost has turned on. I don't know which way he'll go and generally the Post has been virulently prejudiced against assassination stories. (I can replace that clipping if I do not find it as, gradually, I catch up on 10 weeks of accumulated stacks that have to be filed. I can bend for only so long at a time. Circulation in legs.) The last I heard from him he was to go to Atlanta this coming week and spend it with King's family and associates, after which he was coming here.

Do you represent David Slawson? I've written him to ask him to debate me where he is professor of law, at U.S.C., Los Angeles. I've told him that as long as I can sit with my legs up and he has it arranged through you he can arrange any format he wants.

I thought I asked you about Arlen Specter. If I did not let me go over it.

Post Mortem really focuses on his work. Destructively of him and his integrity. However, we've had no orders from any Philadelphia book store. So, having no copies

of any Philadelphia newspaper clippings and knowing that the story was suppressed in all major cities despite the fact that all four radio nets gave it good play I think he may not know the content. He is familiar with my earlier work, which he has yet to deny. He has, in the past, declined perhaps two dozen invitations to confront me, when he was DA in Philadelphia.

The day he announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Senator from Pennsylvania he was asked, on tape, by a radio reporter, if he would debate me. He then said he would. I asked the reporter who told me to ask him to make any arrangements he preferred, my preference being any law school. Since then silence.

What I would like you to do is write him at his Phila. law office reminding him of this and asking if he is willing to debate me in his city. If you have any customers there you might want to ask them first and then tell him, if you get it, that you have this agreement. Please, if you do this, indicate on the original that you have sent me a carbon. If he does not answer within a reasonable time or if he refuses I'll be able to use it.

I'll agree to any format he wants as long as it precludes long lawyers' speeches. What I did with Felin is an exception and it accomplished my purposes. I won't prepare a speech and I'd prefer that neither of us make a long one.

The xeroxes of the enclosed story by Fred Emory are from The Times of London. I do not need them back. I'd appreciate the return of the other enclosures when you no longer need them as well as what I've already sent.

Groden told me the New York program has been arranged and cleared with you. If this is so, would you please let me know so I can mark my calendar up?

Hope we both have a good year.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg