

540 N. Lake Shore Dr.  
Room 404  
Chicago, Illinois  
January 5, 1968

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

My delay in writing to you again has been a combination of the busy-ness of the New Year's holiday, and an effort on my part to get everything together and make sure that I can give you the most complete and accurate report of Radio TV Reports and the Public Affairs Staff (CIA) that is possible.

For you to fully understand that relationship, and the reason for many failures on our part to supply CIA with as much information as they need or want, it is necessary for me to explain to you how Radio TV Reports works. We maintain six offices: New York, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit and San Francisco. In these offices we record and monitor thousands of radio and television programs each month.

By "Monitor" I mean that we take notes on the programs as to their content. From these notes we then contact clients, letting them know what was said about them on particular shows. Sometimes a client will give us a thematic order, which stipulates that they want a copy of anything that's said about them, or the topic they're interested in. Generally, though, as is the case with Public Affairs Staff, they want to be called, told what the program is about, who's on it, and then decide whether they want it. In either case, they're only charged for what they receive, there's no retainer involved.

However, we don't monitor every show that we record. In fact, depending on which office it is, as much as 60% of what we record may never be monitored, simply because we don't have the manpower to do it, and it wouldn't pay to add extra people. It's usually based on what has made money for us. An example you'd be familiar with: the Jerry Williams "Contact" show that was on in the afternoon we hardly ever monitored; whereas the Jerry Williams Show from 8 PM to 11 PM is monitored almost every night. Our charges are by the typewritten line of transcription, 8¢ a line for radio, 10¢ a line for television. The costs can get pretty high, one three hour Don Cannon Show we sent to Public Affairs Staff was \$243.44.

Right after Mark Lane's book first came out, there was a flurry of broadcast activity about the assassination. I then called our Washington office manager, Paul Ingersoll, and asked him if he had any interest in things about the assassination. He said he didn't, but that he was asking around and might come up with something. I can't remember exactly when, but I think it was in the summer of 1966 that Paul told me that he had a client who was interested in the assassination, particularly anything said about the CIA, because the client was the CIA, that is, Public Affairs Staff. I remember it, because I thought it was rather odd, since no one, to my knowledge, had mentioned the CIA in connection with the assassination. They bought a few things from the Chicago office (all of which have been lost) in those first months, but they were buying heavily from Washington and New York. They even got full texts of the

two three hour programs done in New York, at a cost of between three and four hundred dollars per program. (That's the one where they had the opponents of the Report on one night, and the supporters on the other night.)

The Chicago office had been doing a lot of other CIA material, and had been given a privilege the other offices didn't have, their post office box number, which meant that we could send things directly after checking with the Washington office manager, and we invoice them ourselves. The other offices send the transcripts to our Washington office, who forwards them and bills them.

On November 15, 1966, an inter-office memo was sent out from New York which read:

"QUERY WASHINGTON RUSH any stories re the WARREN COMMISSION Report on the KENNEDY Assassination."

That was the first notice to the Los Angeles, San Francisco and Detroit offices, NY and Chicago had known about it for a while. On November 18, 1966 another note went out:

"We wish to stress again the importance of querying Washington fast on any programs that comment upon or discuss the Kennedy Assassination or the controversy that is raging over the Warren Commission report. Several agencies are interested in broadcasts concerning these topics, and the programs can be sold if you query fast."

I talked to the Washington office manager about the term "Several agencies," and he assured me that there was only one -- Public Affairs Staff, (CIA).

On November 17, 1966, I happened to turn on Jerry Williams Contact, where you were discussing the assassination. Immediately I called our Washington office. They hadn't heard your name, except on the 3 hour TV show from New York, and weren't sure whether Public Affairs Staff would take it right away. The next day they called me back, and told me that Public Affairs Staff was "most anxious" to get the program, and they'd like to have it the next day, if possible. We didn't give them that good service, it waited until November 21, to be transcribed.

Sometime after that, I think it was in January, 1967, there was a hiatus, the Washington client was no longer interested in the assassination. But then, on May 9, 1967, you appeared on the Don Cannon Show. The next day I contacted our Washington office, and told them that that guy Weisberg was on the radio again, and this time he says the CIA was in on it. From there on in, we have had a steady order on stories about the assassination. Our Los Angeles office pulled a fo-pah in not monitoring the Mort Sahl exclusive interview with Garrison a while back, which led to another note being sent out from New York:

September 22, 1967

"ALL OFFICES - RUSH TO - PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF,  
P.O. BOX 1282, MAIN POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D.C. -  
ALL INTERVIEWS WITH JAMES GARRISON, NEW ORLEANS  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY."

Notice that here they're giving the address to all the offices to speed up the delivery. Not only that, but they're by-passing any explanation of how they're to be billed, which is significant, as you will see later in the letter, and they're by-passing the opportunity to turn certain things down.

From the material I have available, which is not complete, we have sent them comment on the assassination by you, Gordon Novel, William Gurvich, Mort Sahl, Jim Garrison, and a few listeners. They really got nervous when I called one day and told them Dick Gregory was on a program and said that the CIA was involved in the assassination of Malcolm X, they wanted that transcript in a hurry, too.

At any rate, in my office we keep our transcripts on file for a year, unless they get accidentally thrown out earlier. By the time I quit feeling romantic about doing work for the CIA and realized the political implications of it, some of the transcripts had been thrown out, either because the year had ended or because July got thrown out instead of December, something like that. So what I have is not the complete library of CIA transcripts from Chicago, and the complete Chicago library would be a small percentage of what's been sent from the three offices, NY, Washington and Chicago. New York, I believe, keeps their transcripts on file for five years.

Radio TV Reports has been dealing with CIA as Public Affairs Staff for many years. I am now documenting this involvement through recorded telephone conversations with people in our Washington office. I'll be able to send you transcripts of these conversations probably in another week.

But briefly, in years past the transcripts were mailed to our then-office manager in Washington, a guy named Williamson, who personally took them to an office in the Pentagon, and was paid cash for them. Then they took to picking them up at the Washington office, again, paying cash. They never receive a regular invoice. Even now, when we send them to the post office box, we don't enclose a standard invoice, but just send on our letterhead the name of the program, the date and time, and how much it is. They make a photostat of that and send it back with the check. The checks are drawn on American Security Trust Company, Washington 20013. They don't say "Public Affairs Staff" or anything like that, they simply have on the upper-left-hand corner the following names:

Joan K. Drewry, Librarian  
Robert E. Gagen, Assistant Librarian

The account number is 0182894049.

We send the transcripts to the post office box number that is given at the ~~page~~ top of page three. I don't know whether it'll be of any use, but I expect a check from them some time this week or next, and I'll get it photostated and send the photostat to you.

Of course, at this point you and I have no proof that Public Affairs Staff is the CIA, other than the word of our WASHINGTON office manager and others in the company. But I think the transcripts, when I send them to you, will speak for themselves, when you see that the only thing Public Affairs Staff buys are stories about the CIA, the Kennedy Assassination, espionage, and occasional interviews with people who have visited communist countries. Also, as we discussed on the phone, our New York sales manager's fear of contacting Garrison, because, "My God, he'd just be crazy enough to subpoena our files or something like that."

In relation to the transcripts, I should be sending them to you within a week. I will be sending along with them some other pertinent information, such as inter-office memos on the subject. These will be transcripts of everything we've sent Public Affairs Staff that I could salvage from our files in Chicago. They won't all be about the assassination. Whatever you want to do with them is okay with me, but I would like to eventually get them back, because I too write, and plan to one day write a novel about this whole thing and I'd like to use them as reference material. Also, I'd like to be consulted before you make any definite move on them, because as you can see I'll probably lose my job as soon as this might get out, if it got out, and I don't mind that, I'd just like to be ready for it.

There's something that I'm interested in that I got a little plug in for earlier there that I'd like to get your thoughts on whether you'd be interested into looking into with me sometime in the next year or so, and that's the CIA's involvement in the assassination of Malcolm X. Due to the press of other things I've been delayed in getting into it, but I expect to start the basic work sometime this month. I think the newspapers from the day after the killing will be damning in themselves. I would like to talk to Dick Gregory, who said he knew people who had proof the CIA was in on it. If they do, I can't understand why they haven't stepped forward. Maybe they're afraid.

My own worry ceases with your receipt of this letter. I'd appreciate a speedy acknowledgement of it, because once I know that you've gotten it I can breathe easier, because even if something were to happen and you didn't get the transcripts and other information, at least from what's in this letter you have a starting point. In fact, the transcripts may be of no relevance at all; this letter may be of no relevance; but maybe if you put enough irrelevant facts side-by-side you can come up with a pattern, and a pattern is only a step or two away from a plot, and you've already shown that there was a pattern to their movements around the assassination.

  
Russ Trunzo

NEW ADDRESS: Rt/ 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

1/5/67

Dear Mr. Brunzo,

Your letter of 1/3 reached here promptly, the first day I was away on the brief trip I'd told you about. My return was today, delayed by the storm you also had. I'm answering in haste to assure you of prompt receipt.

Of course, I'm looking forward to what you spoke of.

Until I complete this work, there is no other I'll undertake. Perhaps, however, if you go it alone-and I encourage you to-I can help. My friend Paul can arrange an introduction to the man you think can help.

My brevity is not a reflection of interest, for that is great. It is only that in order to answer promptly I've let everything else go so this can be in the first mail, and there is quite a stack.

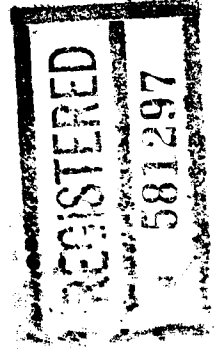
I do not expect to be away for more than a day or two at a time until early next month.

I am looking forward to hearing further from you.

Sincerely,

Harold Häbberg

trunzo  
c/o Janowicz  
643 W. Waveland  
Chicago, Illinois



Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Route 7  
Frederick, Maryland

R E G I S T E R E D