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3/1/66

Dear Mr. Verb,

A very kind note from Joe Dolan today prods my conscience. I have been so busy with the success of WHITWASH, which does require a considerable amount of work, that I have abandoned my normally good manners. I should have written you long before this, and I'm sorry I kept doing other things and not getting around to it.

What you did in arranging the Joe Dolan program was a major and a valuable help to us and, I think the cause of truth, freedom and justice. As I told Dolan and his station in letter that will go out with this, of all the many good things that have happened to me and my book, only one topped this - and that was an exciting, unrehearsed, unplanned, and by me at least entirely unanticipated confrontation-type thing where someone organized a clique of lawyers to tear me apart. That show, because of the drama and conflict, became quite the most exciting yet. It grew into a 2-hour TV special that the station plugged hard for a week before telecasting. When I get around to writing the story of WHITWASH, I think I'll entitle that chapter "The Lions in Daniel's Den." I took an hour and a half, but I beat them all into ignominious, frustrated silence and captured the studio as well as the over-air audience.

To say that the Dolan show didn't outpull this is still to give it what from my experience is the highest possible compliment. It - and he - and you - we wonderful! I know you know we appreciate it; yet there is no excuse for my having delayed its articulation so long.

Busy is hardly the word for what we've been. I've got about 20% of the sequel done, and only by getting up at 3:40 yesterday morning did I get any writing done. I've been all around, appearing where and when I can, and with some success. I have a repeat, by popular demand four hours on WCAU on the 12th. They expanded my appearance the night of the 23rd. To include Curtis Crawford and Vibece Salandria (who was very kind to me). Crawford was a filibusterer and the show was too slow until the very end, when I had a slight chance to do as on the Joe Dolan show. People have been phoning and writing them they tell me, demanding my return. I'll probably spend most of the four hours answering phoned questions. Happy as I am with success, I do miss the time to write, and I squeeze in what little I can. I think the sequel will be at least as exciting and in a way perhaps more important.

We went to press again ten days ago, for a second 5,000 copies, 1,800 of which went in a week. We have now paid off all but \$500 of the cost of the first printing and hope to do that and make a payment on the second by the middle of this month. We had to withhold enough to buy my wife a new typewriter. If you look at the back cover no explanations will be required. We had to borrow a typewriter for her to type the index she did for WHITWASH. I shall soon be sending you some copies, for you and for others who you think may want or need them, not counting people in the L.A. area to whom I shall also send some. If you ever see Lifton, he was going to lend me copies of some Zapruder statements. They are right now quite important to me...If I had less than a month I could finish the sequel, but that does not look likely now.

A new York outfit has made me an attractive offer to do the book on radio, then to syndicate, 29 weeks, five of five minutes each a week. Lots of work - about 80,000 words, even if they let me ad lib - but it should in every way be worth it. Although quite tired, I'm looking forward to it. I interrupt the outlining to do this.

The Los Angeles people have also been very kind. I wish we'd all be in touch earlier.

Did the Dolan program get any newspaper mention? The NY TV thing, to the best of my knowledge, didn't (it was the Alan Burke show, Metromedia - and I hope without reason for the hope that they syndicate it at least to their own stations). But then, the New York Times, which got a dozen free copies, has yet to acknowledge it in their "books received" listing.

The climate is changing, people are wonderful, and we shall, I am confident, aeriate the whole thing now. In all the many letters we have gotten, not a single unfriendly one, not a single crank letter, not a single complaint, save from Wesley Liebeler, who has yet to answer my reply or pay for his book. From his letter I know that Burt Griffin has read the book, without comment to me. I, in turn, for the present at least, will also make no comment.

As I suspected, and as I can now prove, the situation is now much worse than WHITEWASH said, but I ask you to say nothing of this, for I am still, in the infrequent few moments I can steal for it, collecting more information, and it is - I can't say good - shocking still. I now have the full Altgens picture. I sent Bill O'Connell a copy of an almost complete one and of a draft, unread, of an answer-analysis of Knebel, of which, if you should see it, I'd also like you to make no public comment, for I have sent it to LOOK for their information (it is not in publishable condition) and expect to use some myself.

There are now again rumors of publishers saying they'll approach me. I have approached none and heard from none not reported to you. Reading copies of Lane's book are now out. I haven't seen one yet. It'll probably be out in a couple of weeks. Holt has spent a fortune on it, including a half-dozen editors.

Again, thanks for your wonderful help and willingness.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg