

4/18/72

Mr. Steve Elman  
The Jerry Williams Show  
WBZ Radio  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Steve,

Having had no answer to my previous letter to Jerry - or to the first, about his supposed interest in Kleindienst - I write him again, addressing you so that it will not get lost in the volume of fan mail.

Jerry, you, personally, promised me a tape of the show with Frank. You did your best to use me to sell his book, even to the extent of not once telling your many listeners how they could get mine, the only one on the other side, not on sale, as you knew. This included what I think it is not unfair to describe as stifling my presentation of the side other than the official mythology Frank hawked. All of these things are inconsistent with the Jerry of the past, who without doubt today still hold and espouses workaholic opinions. I can understand that one as smooth as Frank could con even the shrewdest guy who does not have personal knowledge of the fact. What I can't understand is how you would shill for anyone and how you would fail to keep your word. I have not gotten the tape and I have not heard a word.

Per se, the tape means nothing to me. My book was killed by the publisher. I don't even have the last part of the "advance", and I've been loaded with fraudulent charges. If I had the money to hire a lawyer, which I do not, it would be about 3 years before the case could come to trial in New York. So, why do I want the tape, why did I ask you to promise it?

I am reminded of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's words, "As little truth as there is in the world, the supply is greater than the demand." As little truth as there was on your show, there was a limitless supply. I have given you a few means of testing this for yourself, not because I expected you to but as a sign of good faith.

You may remember that in your intro I asked you to ask him two questions. You asked him one. Why you were reluctant to ask him if he had read FRAME-UP I don't try to understand. However, in spite of you and in spite of Frank, because he does fillibuster, he lets little things slip. I still seek truth, and I would do what I can to help establish it, and those truths he let slip that you do not and cannot understand I do want. Obviously, there can be no kind of personal profit in this for me. I would like the tape soon because he has agreed to another, this time face-to-face, confrontation I do not expect him to meet. I would like to have excerpts of him on cassettes to play from it should there be any empty chair. I know Frank, how hysterical he gets on this subject where he knows he whored, so I can imagine how he looked in your studio and I can imagine that he will not face me. And if for one minute you think I'm blowing hard, invite him to one, with a format questions limited to one minute, answers to two minutes. If he shows I'll push you around Boston Common at noon in a red, white and blue wheelbarrow of your supplying. Of him the next day if he lasts the whole show.

On the Kleindienst matter for which you asked me to prepare and they, strangely for you, lose all interest: it came up in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington in another Freedom of Information suit, the question raised by the presiding judge. He read Richard the Lyin'

Hearted then he read Mitchell's letter, asked the federal attorney to reconcile them, and when he could not asked my lawyer to file a factual memo in five days. It will be done, it should be informative, it may or may not be covered, and I cannot anticipate the decision with only two of the judges present for the hearing. The prospects are that the case will go to the Supreme Court. The past indicates there will be little or no coverage for the press, having avoided using the Freedom of Information law, passed with the major media in mind, has ignored it and almost all suits under it. Besides that, I am a pariah, now even where I didn't expect to be once I came to recognize and live with my status.

Thus I did nothing before or after the hearing to get any attention for it. I have no interest in personal publicity and when you did not respond to my earlier letter on Kleindienst after your fine broadcast, I had all the reading I needed. (I wrote it Marh 8 and there is no chance it could have done me any good.) But your instincts were good. You had a live one and didn't jerk the line. So, that fish you missed.

If you do not supply the tape, it again will not hurt me, as supplying it cannot benefit me personally. Of course, I would not consider using it to hurt you. There is on it what, for all your acuteness, you did not catch. I may have a tape, but until I can get to New York I don't know. Your signal, sometimes good, is not dependable here, so I didn't have a tape recorder picking up a radio in a different room (a good set I got to be able to get you when you were at WBBM, intended as a complementary reference). I did ask a friend in New York to try and tape it. I haven't asked if he was able to because it can't be as good as the tape you can supply, and the ultimate destiny may well be in court, which needn't frighten your management and presents no problem to it. They have no involvement, would be faced with none and, as you know, for those able to pay for it, such shows are available at high prices from commercial sources.

Some of the institutions of society still work sometimes. Even the courts. I want to be prepared for that day. For this reason more than any other I still want the tape. I do hope you will supply it, at any speed other than 15/16.

This is not a letter of bitterness, Jerry. It is one of disappointment. For many reasons, the one I articulate being that in my state of exhaustion and with all the work I can't find time for I have to write a second time. Perhaps, unless you consider me irrational (and I caught the crack about "do you still think the JFK assassination was a conspiracy?"), that I take the time may be a measure of the potential importance.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. I don't think you care much about minor reaction to you or your show, but for whatever it is worth to you, even though you did not give my address, Frederick was enough. I got a couple of calls and letters. This, from a total stranger in Illinois who knows you from there is typical: "I heard you last night on the Jerry Williams Show. I was shocked at the treatment you got from him and his guest. (The next part is flattering to me). Williams' repetitious plugging of that 'fascinating book' made me ill (and the next is unflattering to you), but from his spiel over the radio it sounded like a paid whitewash..."