

11/3/66

Dear Maury,

Having spoken to Shirley, I'm also hoping I'll be speaking to you tonight. In case not or that we're too busy, for things are happening fast, I'll answer your letter. First, thanks for the little information your engineers offered. If you get a chance to talk to them again, what I really need to know is the minimum number of transistors required to do the job, allowing for any that might be diverted to FM. My eight, which does not drift, also does not eliminate fading at all and does not discriminate against the welling up of signals from adjacent frequencies (esp. WGAR) I'll not have time to get one for a while. Things are too hectic. I'm back on the 4 a.m. beginnings of my days and they run pretty late some times.

On the plagiarism, possible you have confused two things, possible I led you to believe other than I feel, or maybe I once said other than I now and for some time have felt. I once wrote suggesting the story of the woman who wanted to adopt her husband's bastard is a beautiful one and should be done. Jack aired almost enough. I can find the date if you cannot by going over my diary. It was one night when I was driving back from New York.

Because of the subject matter of WHITEWASH I have refrained from certain very obvious thin public-relations exploitations that would, without doubt, help its sale. My reason is not that I'm afraid, or a nut. It is simply that the other books and their promotion (sometimes one of these, sometimes both) commercialize on the Presidency and take liberties with the subject matter that I regard as not in the national interest and not appropriate. It is for this reason I usually refrain from any public mention of it. The kind of a story you project would help me and my sales. I think it is not at this time helpful to the ultimate disclosure of the completest possible truth or the ready understanding of the people. It can be misused and misinterpreted.

People who are friends of mine and do business with a publisher who has brought out a competitive book spoke to me several times to persuade me to file suit against him, first insisting I demand an injunction to prevent damage and ultimately telling me that publisher was holding off on his own promotions to exploit the suit he assumed I'd file. I had never in any way indicated this intention and I do not now have it. With that particular book my task is easy. I have checked enough of it to find exact duplications of too-inclusive footnotes, too restricted footnotes, excerpted direct quotations which exclude exactly those words I omitted from the beginning and end and including all I did in between.

Yet I have done nothing. I think this is the way it should be, because of the subject matter. I hope you will understand this. To a large degree I share the view often expressed that an entire book was taken from me. I do not like my name and reputation misused by another for commercial purposes without my consent, which would not have been given. You may remember Curtis Crawford commented on this, unsolicitedly, more than three months ago. But there are more important things, Maury, especially here. I think the Kennedy family has done many wrong things. I do not assault their motives, I do not address the things they have done I think they should not have, and I try and make comprehensible what they have and have not done and the position they were in and are.

So, while I cannot tell you not to do this, I cannot help you with it, Maury. Eventually it will be said, as I may say it myself, some years hence; but not now. Thanks anyway. In a little while the situation may change. Others also know it. I have been told by the senior editor of one of the major magazines that he has seen my work in eight others, including identical paragraph structure. A major by-line writer spent much of last Friday here and said the same thing. These people also have said nothing publicly. I think it is because they also think it should not now be said.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Hello.

I spoke to our most knowledgable technician about a good inexpensive no-drift AM-FM radio. He said that any good RCA, Zenith or Motorola will do the job for you. As for getting one cheap, the technicians (a pack of liars anyway) claim to be unable to get a discount. And we are, unfortunately, at the moment, without an appliance sponsor. Your best bet is probably one of the discount houses.

By the way, maybe you can help me with something. We ~~are~~^{once} spoke of the fact that you as pioneer in Commission research and criticism were having much of your work pirated, getting little or no credit or recognition. You said it would be a good topic of a magazine article. Would you please send me all the facts you have in this area. I am very interested.

My best,

Maury
Maury Levy