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12/10/63

Dear Shirley,

Judging from today's flood of mail the program was a success.

But a number of people misunderstood what I am offering. I have no pictures of myself, unfortunately, not even press copies. This is not what we offered. Jack had only the first printing of WHITEWASH. That has no index (I've sent him one with the index and a copy of the index so you'll know what we were talking about). While we were talking about this, I remembered that I had printed several thousands extra copies of the index and the four extra pictures I added to WHITEWASH (in a signature, or "sig", if 16 extra pages). To those who send us a stamped, self-addressed envelope we can mail this free. It is beyond our capacity (and beyond my wife's while I am away even more) to even address the envelopes. This also will be of use to only those who have the printing of WHITEWASH that does not have the index. As long as we have them, they are free, but only if there is a return-addressed envelope, with a stamp.

By now possibly you have seen Thursday's New York Times and know that I did save the "break" for Jack, as I said I wanted to do. If you haven't, it is on page 40, about a quarter of the pages.

Last night I was so exhausted and have such an even more exhausting couple of weeks ahead, I decided to quit work early and go to bed with our fading transistors. I had bought a 15-transistor set, but find that it doesn't do as well as the eight, presume because it has separate circuits for am and fm rather than utilizing some of the transistors for both. The news before the program was still on when the phone started ringing, and it was well after 11 when it stopped. I slept through most of the program, rousing now and then when the volume faded up. If I got a sample that is at all fair, except for one nut, who Jack handled perfectly, the reaction was strong and good. I heard a few very kind things ~~ix~~ from Jack that we do, very much, appreciate. I woke up briefly a little before 5 and heard something very pleasant from a listener but dozed off again until a little after the ~~xxx~~ rerun was off.

Jack is right, 100% right, in saying we have not made a cent. I hope we will. If Dell keeps their promises, we shall. But as of today, with 100% of the gross going to the printer, we haven't yet finished paying for WHITEWASH and are in debt for 10,000 copies of WHITEWASH II. The only money we have held back from the printer is for a new typewriter for my wife (mine is considerably older than you) and beginning in August we also took postage out of it. Until August, we even added the postage from our borrowed money, giving the printer 100% and not even holding back postage. If we are paid for all the copies of WHITEWASH the wholesalers bought, eventually, it will pay off all our debts and what we get from Dell can go toward the really great amount of work and hopefully, some profit. We literally have been without income for two years all but one month. To give you and Jack an idea of the kinds of costs we have had, in 1965 I spent more than \$1100 on the Kennedy and Jersey Turnpikes without eating a solid meal- snacks, tolls, phones and gas.

We have much more time in this than Jack understood. Tired as I am, I must have been unclear. This past Sunday morning, while driving to Baltimore, I calculated how much time my wife and I have invested. It comes to 22,500 hours, approximately. I told Jack, from what he said, 2,500 hours.

Assuming that there is something reprehensible in making a legitimate profit of in professional writing, which I do not assume, is there any money to pay for this kind of work, done in two years, where the working year averages about 2,000 hours per person?

I heard part of the part where Jack addressed this. Please thank him for us. There is an evil line of propoganda that has been started that these people reflect. Its untruthfulness and lack of integrity are readily understood when you recall that the first book in general distribution on the Report or the Commission was by Congressman Ford, or at least under his signature and ghosted. Is it somehow honorable for him to make a profit from the work of ~~xxxxx~~ another, using his name, and covering what he had already been paid to do as a public servant, and dishonorable for those like Lane to make a profit from writing for which they were not paid in advance? Or Savage? Or Epstein? I hope I'll join this fraternity sooner than I expect.

Your audience is as wonderful as all of you are. The letters now include, in addition to the kind comments so often made about Jack, praises for the station.

Every time I think of the coming two weeks, I almost fold up (as I almost did on Jack about 1:20, in real life). But I had to take time from my last-minute preparations for the trip to write again to thank Jack and all the rest of you and to ask that if possible, the listeners be given to understand what it is we can give and are giving, and the need for the stamped, addressed envelope. The postage is 10 cents if sent flat in a manila envelope, but only 5 cents if sent in a plain white envelope. It will have to be folded only once for the long size.

After he has read the new book and sees what else is coming out and after I'm back from this trip, if Jack wants to do another show, based on what he thinks from knowledge of the contents of WHITEWASH II his audience might particularly like, I'll be glad to. But I'm going to have to find some way of getting a few days of rest first. To give you an idea of what is immediately ahead, I leave 6 a.m. tomorrow, have an airport conference with the producer of the Jerry Williams Show on WBBM about the show and things he wants to do, like a press conference, then I fly to Madison, Wisc., for a radio or TV taping, then to a small seminar, then a drive to Milwaukee for a 10 p.m. TV show, then back to Madison. The next day I have speeches and a large seminar, a dinner speech and a "bull session". Early the next day I go to Chicago or Chicago by way of Milwaukee. It is the easy day, closing with the Williams Show. Because the first plane out of Chicago the 14th gets to San Francisco airport 45 minutes after the scheduled time of my downtown press conference, we have had to shift that to the next day, right after an early-morning TV show. I have seven radio and TV shows already scheduled for the 14-16, two speeches, a press conference and book-store appearances. The first night I have a late show, like Jack's, and a 5:30 or 6 a.m. TV show that same morning! I wish those nasties who talk about how rich I am getting could feel as exhausted as I now do, without what is ahead (and Los Angeles follows SF at about the same pace) and their wives had to live as mine does!

If the "delayed" TV show in New York comes off, or if I have to go there for any other reason after I return, I'll let you know in case Jack wants me for anything (like geese), for if I do not drive, the extra cost is slight. I spent only \$7.50 this time, so why not forget it also? I know I have to go to New York before too long to do a show with one of the editors of the Sat Eve Post, and this might also provide the opportunity.
Good holiday to you all.