

10/22/66

Dear Shirley,

Now I know why everybody connected with your show, especially Jack, is so wonderful. Its nature's workings or Socratic philosophy. And WCAU sure needs it. That guy "amefee" is a boob. Here is a copy of my reply to a nasty and unjustified reply I got from him. On that same program he had also made what I took to be slurring remarks about Jack or the kind of people he has on his show. Destroy the copy when you have read it.

What a contrast between him and Jack. When I've heard Jack talk about anything, he's got a pretty good idea of what he is talking about.

Also enclosed is a copy of a letter I wrote Norman Cousins at the SR. There are several words in it possibly not suited to tender young eyes, so maybe you'd better not read it. If you do not heed this injunction, I assure you they are used in only a literary sense (and over my wife's objections). Please send this back. But I want you to know in the remote event the (pfoofie!) judge accepts the challenge.

That was a funny thing last night. I had just tuned you in. The signal was fading like a roller coaster. Then the phone rang. It was a long-distance call from California, from swell people I've never met worried over the field day Wesley Liebeler is having out there. Mark Lane had declined his challenge to debate and Liebeler ~~is~~ is getting more TV time than is good for anyone. He has his law students making a study of the work of the Commission (like putting a fox to guard a chicken house). Lomax has refused to have anyone appear in opposition to Liebeler, etc. They asked me what to do and would I come out and debate. I said I would and for them to stop worrying. The more Liebeler says the better the chance of this whole thing coming clean. He gabbed for a while and then I started to put ~~xx~~ away what I was working on. The little radio was still on and I heard this woman talking about her own researches. That made me feel wonderful, even if the things she said of my book were based on misunderstandings. She is not the only one in Jack's vest following who is making a personal study. I've heard from a young man who was unemployed until last week, when he got a not very good job. This fellow had borrowed a copy of WHITEWASH but could not afford one. I gave him one. (Remember I once asked you if I should include a note saying the books were from Jack to those who said they could not pay for them? There were two elderly people living on social security that I recall. Any way, not having heard from you, I decided it might get people to expecting things from Jack, so I just sent them without any letter.)

I can imagine how Jack felt. I had just put the call in when I heard him refer to our previous conversation on him calling me when questions arose. ~~When~~ I finished speaking to the operator and I hear Jack assuring the audience it was not a put-up thing. It was just coincidence. I hope it was an interesting fillip, a different twist that went over well. Please assure Jack that if he calls me and gets me out of bed that doesn't mean a thing. I can go back to sleep real quick. I usually wake up quickly, too.

But what a testimonial to Jack that he has his audience doing work and interested enough in a vital national question to be doing it for nothing but interest or civic responsibility. To me this is wonderful. I wasn't putting the woman on a bit when I said something nice about it, either.

Please thank Jack for his customary kindness and tell him if it happens again and he thinks I'm taking too long to answer a question or explain a point to give me some kind of a clue, like a commercial, and I'll get the hint.

My best to you all (and don't forget Maury).

Sincerely,