

20734

10/8/66

Dear Mr. Heid,

A very strange coincidence, the day before you wrote me your sister station in Dayton, Ohio, WHIO (or WHIO?) phoned to ask if I could do what I suggested to you. I believe the man who runs the show is named Donaghue. He waited until too close to air time and before we knew it our preliminary conversation was being aired. It got so exciting that that cancelled the hourly net news and ran for a solid hour and a half, with the phones jumping all the time.

This whole thing is opening fast and wide, and I am happy to be the one who was both first and with most, for all the others together do not have all that is in WHITEFACE and it lacks nothing responsible and credible that is in any of the others. At least one is but a transparency, and not a very good one.

Aside from the rapidly-growing newspaper interest, the radio and TV interest is also growing. WNEW will air a major special (three hours) to be syndicated on November 12. NBC has taped an hour or Lane and Epstein for the 20th of that month. My tapes are being used I cannot begin to imagine where, but my mail is from all over and refers to programs I had forgotten.

And there are sensational developments pending on the Manchester book, I am confident. I believe a change in the attitude of the Kennedy family is inevitable and close. The recent Harris poll disputes your opinion, for it shows that 60% of the people do not agree with the Warren Report. My mail, which, of course, is loaded by my book and appearances, shows a vastly greater percentage. I've gotten well over 500 unsolicited letters, and they are a magnificent emotional outpouring. If half the heaped benedictions stick, I have no fear of the hereafter!

What you do or do not do is entirely up to you and your station. If you ever decide to either interview me by phone, have me answer questions by phone, or a combination of both, depend on me to cooperate and I think I'll give you one of your best shows, especially if you can announce it in advance. I've had great quantities of mail from Conn. following my appearance on the Allen Burke Show on WNEW, all my way, too. If you ever get close to a decision and want to find out what I can do, ask Steve, who gave me a little more rein on my second appearance, Jack McKinley on your Phila affiliate, WCAU (who has had everybody in the field) or Mel Baily or Paul Noble at WNEW-TV, top name those closest to you. My most recent and like all the others unrehearsed one was the fifth on the John Sterling show on WCEM in Baltimore. He said it was just about his best in three years. One show on WCAU, with the phone numbers given only two of three times. We stacked up \$4700 overloaded calls, without gimmickry, after telling the people not to call for the first hour in a half and answering questions in the last 2 1/2 hours. They repeated the tape of that this past Saturday night and by three days later I had three dozen new letters from it!...I have also heard from a few of your listeners saying they want to hear me...enclosed is the copy of the book you requested. More than 13,000 copies have been sold with but limited and improvised and quite inefficient distribution. Six Italian publishers are after it right now as well as others in Europe. Magazine and Newspaper rights have been sold in Spain and Germany, spontaneously. I took no initiative. Thanks, sincerely,

Mailing Address: Manchester, Conn.
TEL. Area Code 203 643-2491

WINF

CBS RADIO FOR THE HARTFORD AREA

October 5, 1966

Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Please forgive my negligence in not writing sooner, but things have been mighty hectic at WINF of late.

I did appreciate hearing from you, and of course received the correspondence from Steve about where and how to reach you. We have talked about the subject matter contained in your book, but quite infrequently, and at the moment, it does not appear to be of significant interest to warrant a phone interview. I conducted the first such permitted on the station with Steve Allison the other night, and, believe me, getting the approval to do so was not easy.

I will continue to refer interested parties to you, and let me assure you that if you are ever in the Hartford area, I would be happy to do a couple of hours with you, as I know then that we could do a marvelous program on the subject, but at the moment a telephone interview is not possible.

I would be most interested in receiving a copy of the book from you, and would read it with considerable interest.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Heid

E. Michael Heid



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1966

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September 7, 1966

Mr. Michael Hyde
WHP Radio
East Hartford, Conn.

Dear Mr. Hyde,

AWWDC
Steve Allison was kind enough to have me back on his program for another hour. He mentioned having spoken to you by phone when he was nearby and caught your show on his car radio. This was at about the 18th hour of a 21-hour day and my recollection is less clear than it might be. I do not recall if he said whether or not you have a copy of the book. If you do not and would like one, please let me know and I'll send it immediately.

I had extensive mail following my appearance on the Alan Burke Show the weekend of July 24, about half of it from Connecticut. This was an unrehearsed real-life Perry Mason in which four lawyers took an hour and a half to learn how golden silence can be.

Steve did say that he suggested you might want to do something by phone. This can be remarkably effective. KTVB, Oakland, Calif., asked me to answer questions by transcontinental phone for about 10 minutes. It lasted 2 hours and had the whole town jumping. Joe Dolen runs the show, if you'd like to check.

This subject is opening more and more, much to the gratification of the author and publisher of the first book. All that is said is not characterized by an unflinching devotion to accuracy, alas. If there is any way in which you'd like to use me, I think you should know that as my book is 100% from the official record, and the only one that is, I will speak only from it and the record. To do otherwise, in my opinion, is to paint Ft. Knox with 10-cent store paint.

The truth is so shocking, there is no excuse to misrepresent it.

Despite the unwillingness of the papers to let the book be judged on its own merit or lack of it, to review it honestly, and in most cases, to mention it at all, largely through the electronic media it is a success. 12,000 copies have been sold and the third printing of 5,000 copies is now half through the bindery. For a book with all the handicaps of this one, a private printing by offset reproduction of the typescript, with little distribution and that lacking enthusiasm, this is a perhaps unequalled record so early in a book's life. Did you notice the front page story in the Wall Street Journal the 30th?

Should you phone, we share our rural line with seven others, including the volunteer fire department. I'd suggest you make it person to person. There is much in WILSON that is entirely fresh, not having been used either on the air or in the other books. It can be exciting.

Sincerely yours,
Harold Weisberg