

Dear Jim, Re Dave Simon firing; Gregory operation; recollections for suit 3/6/75

I have I have enough time to complete this before I have to wake -il because today's extra chores include beginning the day in town getting a new tire and other things.

Dave Simon called me evening before last just to tell me that the Post's WTOP-TV had asked him to resign, giving one of the typical bureaucratic explanations about his suitability in their operation.

Naturally it had nothing to do with his airing of the Gregory-Groden show that antagonized everyone on the show and I'm sure the executives and counsel, who had been fer that station quite courageous.

I guess it is natural to phone ones friends with bad news. But I haven't been that close a friend of Dave's that I'd be one of the first. I think his mind was telling him below the level of consciousness what he would not admit to himself.

As it relates to Dave's performance, firing him could not be more inconsistent. His motion has been steadily upward. Only recently he was promoted. They did not give him more shows and greater responsibilities because he was not performing well. Nor did they have him on syndicated shows and continue him on them only because he is black. The last time I was in the station with him he was handling a show Westinghouse syndicates. Aside from the station's own local shows.

This past summer he discussed with me whether he should accept a fine offer from the more conservative WMAL-TV, the Star's, at close to a doubling of salary as I recall and without doubt a major increase in it.

His decision not to take that big increase was based on the station's representations of his future with it, some enough implemented by his promotion to director.

This reminds me of the show on which I first get to know Dave well. It was a Haranbe show. Also on it was a black woman with a black p.r. man from Eastern Airlines in the NYC main office, Rick Brown. He was running the Miss Black America promo for them. They had a big investment in it.

We got to talking, he was interested in my "ing assassination work, and he came here for a weekend, brought up by several black women from Washington, with one of whom he was more than just friendly. She had a very bright 10-year-old boy. With them was a woman who worked for the David Eaton Show, WRC-TV. I've forgotten both names. The first woman worked for the economic-opportunity outfit.

Rick left with all my research for Desire, the planned book on the revolt of the New Orleans black ghetto. He seemed thoroughly taken by it and stayed up most of the night reading the fat file even though he knew he'd be taking it with him when he left.

Shortly thereafter I got a call from him. He, too, has been asked to resign. He had gone back and told them that he would be writing this book and that he'd gotten the files from me. They seemed satisfied enough and there had been no requirement that he tell them his plans for his private literary work.

Not long after he informed them of the planned book the ax fell. When he was told of it he was also told that they had had their man in Washington who serves these needs check me out. I don't recall but have the name and the entire conversation on tape. As I recall what he told me the report was, "Man you don't make ripples; you make waves there." There was a clear implication that their message was from official sources.

It is, of course, always possible that firing Dave was not in any way connected with the content of his show. However, I know of no reason to assume this and if there has been a kickback against the station - which is separate from executive feelings about that show - it would be held against him and ousting him would look better in any resolution of any problem.

My apprehensions about the whole Gregory operation are increased by the deal set for Monday at the Press Club, pretty clearly his, the nature of the cheap flackery surrounding it, and the presence of Webberman in Washington working on the stuff that interests them, particularly when he is the origin of the worst of what they have done.

And while Robert tells me he has been opposed to the misuse of the so-called tramp pictures, he also told me that it is he who "identified" Gonzalez with Oswald at the time of the New Orleans arrest, exactly what Webberman was looking for in the Archives when he called not finding the Doyle film there.